Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 80 | **TUESDAY** APRIL 23, 2013 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397
235-2440
FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support the proposal for CNMI foreign workers as outlined in the immigration reform bill crafted by the U.S. Senate's "Gang of Eight"?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

Police say the Boston bombing suspects had planned more attacks.

➤ PAGE 14

ASIA

China rushes relief after Sichuan earthquake kills 186.

➤ PAGE 15

WORLD

At least 185 are killed in fighting between Nigeria's military and extremists.

➤ PAGE 16

STREET DANCING
Young members of the Saipan Awaodori Team entertain the crowd with Japanese street dancing moves at the 2013 Environmental Expo at American Memorial Park as part of their presentation for the 6th Saipan Awaodori Festival last Thursday.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story and more photos on Page 7

EVEN BEFORE CONTRACT AWARD

Marpi landfill under protest

» Lawmakers want Judiciary out of procurement process

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A private firm that responded to a request for proposal to operate the Marpi landfill for at least three years filed a protest "against the making of an [contract] award" to another company, bringing to three the number of major public works projects on temporary stop because of procurement protests.

The total value of these projects under protest is estimated at almost $8 million, including the Saipan traffic light system upgrade and the Cross Island Road improvement Phase II-B projects.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and at least seven other House

See MARPI on Page 4

Lujan to do his own probe on Ayuyu cases

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan said yesterday that he will conduct his own investigation and interview certain potential witnesses, including five to six officials and officers at the Department of Corrections, in preparation for the jury trial of Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota).

See LUJAN on Page 4

2 YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION

Govt prepares to use Marpi public cemetery

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government is now looking for a contractor to "open and close" the burial vaults at the $2.9-million Marpi public cemetery, which remains unused for a host of reasons two years since after its construction was completed. The Marpi

See CEMETERY on Page 4

CHCC board issues TAs cut for Tinian trip

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Trustees direct Babauta to return 'unjustified expenditures'

In a bid to set the record straight, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees released the official travel authorization, or TAs, that the agency cut for some lawmakers and a legislative staffer who recently flew to Tinian with hospital CEO Juan N. Babauta.

The board unanimously adopted the report on the official travel authorization last Friday in a special meeting.

The board said it is releasing the documents to clear up the

See CHCC on Page 4

Bridge Capital's art contest draws more than 100 entries. PAGE 2
Hart: Board evaluation on her performance yet to occur. PAGE 3

IT&E Life in Motion
Flametree Festival
PREPAID SPECIALS
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net
EXTENDED
GET A FREE $5 Load with each purchase
AN EXTRA $15 Load with each SIM SWAP™
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS *Terms and conditions apply

Local

Bridge Capital's art contest draws more than 100 entries

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Bridge Capital LLC principal and chief executive officer John K. Baldwin, and vice chairman & director of business development Shawn A. Scott are flanked by company staff for a group photo following Saturday's opening ceremony for the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC has received more than a hundred entries for its 4th Annual CNMI Competition.

Rowena C. Relado, Bridge Capital administrative services manager, said Saturday that they are delighted by the number of entries they received, all of which were displayed during the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held over the weekend at the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe.

Relado noted that they received a bulk of the entries, particularly in the K-to-12 category, at the last minute. Deadline for submission of entries was originally set on April 13 but was later moved to April 19.

The international investment banking and asset management company sponsors the annual contest in an effort to promote the arts and support local artists in the CNMI, and Relado praised the quality of the artwork they received this year.

The art competition, which is open to all residents who have been living in the CNMI for at least one year, initially had two categories for art submissions: two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art.

Due to the overwhelming number of photograph entries they receive each year, organizers decided to create a separate category for them.

Relado said the entries will be rated by a panel of judges, including government leaders and business executives, from April 22 to 23.

An awarding ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 24, at the Bridge Capital office in Garapan.

Docomo Pacific subscribers are also able to take part in the judging process through text voting. Relado said each entry has its own unique text code made available at the Bridge Capital booth at the Flame Tree Arts Festival grounds.

A total of $13,500 in cash prizes are at stake for the winning entries in this year's competition. Participating artists will vie for various awards, including the Best of Show for $2,500, first prize for $1,500, second prize for $1,000, third prize for $500, and the newly created Governor's Choice award for $1,000.

The top entries for the student category will each receive $100, while their respective teachers will receive $100 worth of school supplies from National Office Supply.

For more information, call 322-2222 or email rowena@bccnmi.com.

Celebrate the
ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY at PIC
Thank you
for all the amazing work you do!
COMPLIMENTARY champagne to all ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS in The Magellan from 11:30 AM to 2 PM on April 24, 2013.
$25 per adult
Local resident discount applies.
For reservations, call 237-5126.
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN
www.picsaipan.com

Help sought for hospitalized Filipino worker

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization is seeking help for a Filipino worker who sustained a fracture on his spine after an accidental fall.

UFO public relations officer Paul Madriaga said yesterday that Marwin Corpus sustained the spinal fracture after helping another Filipino worker move to a new apartment.

The accident occurred barely three months after Corpus transferred to his new employer, Saipan Ocean View Hotel, where he works as a waiter.

Madriaga said that Corpus, a native of Laguna, has already been at the Commonwealth Health Center for three weeks and needs to see an orthopedic doctor.

"Unfortunately, CHC has no orthopedic doctor to attend to his medical needs," said Madriaga.

UFO president Annamae Adaza said she already went to the hospital to visit Corpus, whose request for medical evacuation has been relayed to the Philippine Consulate General in Guam. She added that she is working on the request with Guam Consul Gary Auxilian.

Adaza said she is in communication with Corpus' brother, Henry, who has been following up with the Department of Foreign Affairs to expedite the process.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marwin Corpus, who is currently confined at the Commonwealth Health Center, needs to be flown off island for treatment of his spinal fracture.

According to Adaza, some $8,000 is needed to transport Corpus. The amount does not cover the accumulating expenses for Corpus' stay at the hospital.

"Since [Corpus] fractured his spine, he cannot sit down and would have to travel on a stretcher, which will occupy six seats in an airplane, making the transportation cost higher," she said

In the meantime, Corpus' friends have been visiting him at the hospital to bring him food. They also initiated efforts to ask for financial assistance from the community.

One of his friends, Jethro De Guzman, posted the matter on Facebook while another friend, Erlinda Begonia, have been asking fellow Filipinos to donate whatever amount. During the 6pm Tagalog Mass at Kristo Rai on Sunday, parishioners gave contributions that amounted to $280. A Filipino priest, Fr. Celso Magbanua Jr., pledged his donation while a registered nurse donated her airline miles and is willing to waive her per diem to escort Corpus to Manila.

In a text message, Corpus said his friends were able to solicit about $400 as of yesterday.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who has donated to allow me to get medical attention. It's a big help and I can't thank you enough," the father of two told *Saipan Tribune*.

To donate or for more information, text Corpus at 989-4508 or Erlinda Begonia at 989-0111.

Inos extends CUC emergency; OKs $36.9K for Tinian students

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos extended anew on Saturday the state of emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. He also signed into law yesterday a local bill re-appropriating $36,948 in poker license fee collections for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship program.

The additional 30-day CUC emergency declaration continues to suspend procurement, hiring, and other statutory or regulatory provisions, and allows for reprogramming of funds so that the CUC emergency can be addressed.

Because CUC still does not have a functioning board of directors, all of CUC's executive power—including those vested in the board and the executive director—remains vested in the governor's designated executive director.

The governor said the Office of the Governor's staff has diligently tried to find board volunteers who meet the complex statutory qualifications but they have been unable to do so. Nonetheless, CUC must continue to function.

The latest executive order, dated April 20, continues to suspend laws to allow CUC to hire non-U.S. technical workers.

Inos had already restored the Public Utilities Commission's regulatory powers when he extended for another 30 days the state of emergency declaration for CUC in March. PUC has resumed its regulatory oversight of CUC and other utility firms in the CNMI, including review of contracts, proposed rate increases, and the entry into the CNMI of Guam-based GTA Services LLC, among other things.

Tinian scholarship

The governor signed yesterday Rep. Trenton Conner's (Ind-Tinian) House Local Bill 18-2. It is now Tinian Local Law 18-3.

Conner, in a phone interview, said some 54 Tinian students could benefit from this latest appropriation.

"It's been delayed for quite some time for circumstances beyond my control but I am glad that these students can finally receive their scholarship money," Conner told *Saipan Tribune*.

The bill, passed by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation on March 12, re-appropriates $36,948 that was originally set aside for other projects and programs.

Hart says board evaluation on her performance 'yet to occur'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Up to this time, Northern Marianas College president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., has yet to undergo the required evaluation process by the Board of Regents, so no action can be taken on her contract without this step in the process, according to her.

Hart

Hart said that the board is planning to meet at end of this month "to probably deliberate on the issue."

Hart's contract is expiring on July 4 this year. The contract stipulates that she must be notified about the board's decision 60 days prior to the expiration date.

"The board cannot go forward and move on with my contract until they had completed evaluation on the president…and that has not occurred yet with me," Hart told *Saipan Tribune*.

She explained that, following a written evaluation by the board, she must be given the opportunity to respond and sit down with the members. Hart emphasized that the "president's evaluation" is clearly spelled out in the standards of the accreditation commission.

Hart disclosed that she asked the board in March or April last year to already begin the evaluation process.

"Since then, I have not had the opportunity to sit down with the board and for the board to have its conversation with me," she said.

At present, four board members are in San Francisco for a leadership conference. The team will also meet with WASC president Dr. Barbara Beno while there.

Without board action within 60 days before the expiration of her contract, Hart said the contract will automatically be renewed.

"I have to look at the contract but I believe that's what it states—automatically renewed if I will not be informed otherwise within 60 days prior to the expiration," she said.

When asked to comment on the delay in the board's action on her contract, Hart said the regents are just being careful to ensure it will complete the whole process as required by standards.

"They want to ensure they follow the guidelines to the teeth. They don't want to make one little mistake. All the steps pertaining to the president's evaluation must be documented and the board is well aware of it," added Hart.

The accreditation commission earlier slapped the college with a show-cause status and required it to submit a show-cause report and a closure plan by Oct. 15 this year. The college's fate will be known after the commission's assembly in January 2014. During the show-cause period, NMC remains accredited.

IN TRIAL OF MICHAEL JACKSON

Alleged rape victim testifies in court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The teenager who was allegedly kidnapped and raped by ex-convict Michael Anthony Jackson took the witness stand yesterday but was unable to finish her testimony as she kept crying.

The 17-year-old girl's refusal to answer questions prompted Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho to continue the jury trial to today, Tuesday, at 8:30am.

The girl, who was 15 when the alleged incident happened, cried several times during questioning by assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll.

At one point, the judge ordered a few minutes' break to allow the alleged victim to compose herself.

When questioned about what Jackson did to her, the girl gave halting responses and finally refused to respond, saying "it's hard."

Camacho told her to tell the court why she can't continue her testimony. The girl did not reply.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister said the reason why the alleged victim could not continue with her testimony is because of its nature. McAllister suggested allowing the girl to testify possibly through Skype or video.

Assistant public defender Daniel T. Guidotti, who is defending Jackson, said that providing more accommodations to the girl would make his client appear to be guilty.

Guidotti said the girl is not a small girl anymore as she is almost turning 18.

Guidotti said that Jackson, who potentially could be in jail for the rest of his life, has the most fundamental constitutional right to confront the witness against him.

The 39-year-old Jackson faces charges of kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, and assault for the alleged rape of the then 15-year-old girl.

Police said the girl was walking along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Fina Sisu on her way to her house on Oct. 9, 2010, at 1am when Jackson allegedly forced her into his car, brought her to an open field south of the Saipan airport, and allegedly raped her inside his vehicle.

Jackson also allegedly forced the girl to smoke "ice" or methamphetamine. The girl later managed to run away.

Inos lifts all hiring freezes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos lifted all the government hiring freezes he implemented since February but expects that only qualified individuals will be hired through proper procedures.

Some lawmakers, meanwhile, have been proposing to leave vacant fulltime employee positions unless they are deemed critical or essential, to be able to funnel more funds to the NMI Retirement Fund, among other agencies.

"Although the hiring freeze is lifted, I expect all department heads and agencies to comply with applicable statutes and regulations in hiring the most qualified individuals through the proper procedures," Inos said in an April 8 directive, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

On Feb. 22, Inos issued his first directive as governor issuing a freeze on all hiring.

About a month later or on March 15, he partially lifted the hiring freeze but continued the temporary prohibition on salary changes, reallocations, and reclassifications.

This was followed by the total lifting of the hiring freeze and other prohibitions on April 8.

The governor has yet to submit his fiscal year 2014 budget proposal to the Legislature as of yesterday.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), House Ways and Means Committee chairman, said yesterday that the governor's constant communication with the Legislature about projected revenues, proposed cost-cutting measures, and revenue-generating bills will make the process of passing a new budget bill smoother.

"Right now we're just waiting for the actual budget submission. The Legislature and the administration agree that we need to both come up with revenue generating bills and cut costs so we can save the Fund and other agencies. I don't think the budget process will be delayed," he said.

The administration expects a $120-million budget package, up from the earlier projection of $114 million.

The governor has until May 1 to submit his budget to the Legislature.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free lifeguard training

The American Red Cross is scheduled to provide free lifeguard training to qualified individuals. Space is limited. Please call the chapter office at 234-3459 to register. To learn more about health & safety training, visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(PR)***

Navy training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on April 23 and 24, from 8am to 4pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

CCA board meeting today

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding a meeting today, April 23, 2013, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

CEMETERY

From Page 1

public cemetery has been sitting idle even as other cemeteries are already overcrowded.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios, and Procurement and Supply Director Herman have issued a notice of invitation to bid for the opening and closing of the Marpi public cemetery's burial vaults.

Bids are due on May 21.

The federal government funded the Marpi public cemetery's construction.

The local government, meanwhile, needs to fund the new cemetery's operation and maintenance.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the Capital Improvement Projects Office and the Office of the Attorney General are working on the regulations "to designate what offices will have oversight on the different areas of operations pursuant to existing statute."

Demapan said the contract being sought will be funded locally at this point.

Earlier, government officials blamed the delay in the use of the Marpi public cemetery on the lack of regulations for its operations, lack of funds for its operation and maintenance, and lack of power in the area, among other things.

The new public cemetery has 2,500 double crypts or double-stack occupancy crypts for a total of 5,000 burials. It has a potential to provide over 50,000 crypts for 33 years.

The Marpi public cemetery sits beside the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

John Tagabuel, director of the Bureau of Environmental Health, is also asking the Legislature to revisit Public Law 11-117 or the Public Cemetery Act of 1999, to raise the $50 burial fee at the cemetery. He said this amount, if left unchanged, will not be enough to cover the actual cost of burial.

Tagabuel, however, said such fee can still be waived for indigent families and unclaimed bodies.

Under a 13-year-old law, upon completion of the Marpi Public Cemetery construction, there should no longer be burials at the Wireless Hill Public Cemetery on Capital Hill.

The law says "within 60 days of such closure," the secretary of the Department of Public Health—now Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.—"shall submit an exhumation plan for the transfer of bodies to the Marpi Public Cemetery and anticipated related costs."

Some two years since the new cemetery's construction was completed in early 2011, no such exhumation plan for the bodies' transfer has been submitted and the Marpi Public Cemetery has yet to open.

MARPI

From Page 1

members, meanwhile, introduced a bill amending the CNMI's procurement regulations to help prevent unnecessary delays brought about by procurement protests.

They specifically want to preclude judicial review of the Office of the Public Auditor's decision related to procurement protests. They said once this bill becomes law, it will help speed up the resolution of protests so that government projects could move on.

Herman S. Sablan, director of the Procurement and Supply Division, acknowledged receipt of SARS/Success International Corp.'s April 10 protest letter related to the Marpi landfill operations.

"The protest is against the making of an award; therefore, award is withheld pending disposition of the protest," Sablan said in his April 15 letter, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

The Department of Public Works asked SARS/Success International and Tang's Corp. on March 26 to submit their best and final offer as they were deemed "within the competitive range."

Days later, a review panel selected Tang's Corp. over SARS/Success International Corp.

There were five original proposers.

Guo Jun Miao, president and general manager of SARS/Success International, confirmed yesterday that he learned about the review committee's selection of Tang Corp. based on communication with DPW on April 8.

That was days before a story came out in the media about the same decision.

"Our best and final offer was lower than Tang's Corp.'s offer. Our company has proven experience at the Marpi landfill. Since we got an emergency contract in September 2012, no government agency issued citation against us for violating any law or regulations," Miao said in an interview at his office in Lower Base yesterday.

Miao said their best and final offer is $45,500 a month or $546,000 a year. If the contract is for three years, that would be $1.638 million.

He said based on information he gathered, Tang's Corp. submitted a proposal of $52,000 a month or $1.872 million for three years. Tang's Corp. is not confirming nor denying this amount as of yesterday, citing a pending protest.

Kevin Tang, president of Tang's Corp., confirmed yesterday he's aware of SARS/Success International's protest but declined to comment on the matter.

Earlier, DPW said that Tang's Corp.'s offer is about $700,000 a year or some $2.1 million for three years. But with new numbers revealed yesterday, the amount is much less than $2 million.

To date, neither a notice of intent to award nor a contract has been awarded to Tang's Corp.

SARS/Success International Corp. has an existing "emergency" contract with the government related to the Marpi landfill heavy equipment rental and operation, up to April 30. This emergency procurement started in September 2012.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, hopes that his House Bill 18-59 will pass the Legislature to help speed up the review process of procurement protests so there won't be delays.

He also recommends to the Department of Finance to impose a "procurement protest bonding fee," the amount of which is based on the value of the project being protested.

Deleon Guerrero said this bonding fee will cover the cost to the government of reviewing the procurement protest, among other things. He said posting of such bonding could also help deter frivolous protests.

"Every time a major project comes in, there are protests and this holds back the process especially capital projects. We are not saying all protests do not have basis; it's just that we want the procurement protest review period to be shorter and we want to prevent contractors from protesting just because they didn't get the contract or they want to delay the project," he said.

HB 18-59 says the procurement process, including bid protests, is covered by the Procurement Regulations that the Department of Finance secretary promulgates pursuant to the secretary's constitutional responsibility to regulate the expenditure of public funds.

However, the bill says, the Procurement regulations cannot preclude judicial review since the Administrative Procedure Act provides for judicial review "except to the extent the statutes enacted by the Commonwealth Legislature explicitly preclude judicial review…"

Deleon Guerrero's bill specifically precludes that judicial review.

CHCC

From Page 1

confusion arising from the denials made by Babauta and concerned lawmakers about who paid for the "unauthorized trip."

"We want to clear this issue once and for all. I want us to show the community that we're here for the best interest of the corporation. We're not hiding anything and we're just doing our fiduciary duty as trustees. Here's the fact, here is the evidence [that CHCC paid for that unjustified Tinian trip]," Roy Rios told colleagues.

Babauta, along with five members of the Legislature and a staffer, went to Tinian on April 12 in what the board labeled as unjustified and a show of misguided priority by the CEO. The board later expressed outrage that the corporation paid for the group's travel.

Babauta and some concerned lawmakers earlier claimed that they paid for their own fares.

Based on the documents released by the board, Babauta signed the TAs for the April 12 to 13 travel to Tinian for the following lawmakers amounting to $174 each: Sen. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan); Sen. Victor Hocog (R-Rota); Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan); Rep. Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan); Rep. Roman Benavente (IR-Saipan); and legislative assistant Betsy Ann Cruz.

Based on the TAs, the corporation spent $49 each for transportation and $125 each as per diem allowance. The purpose indicated in the travel documents is to do a site visit at the Tinian Health Center and to meet with Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz.

According to board member Anthony Raho, the documents were released not to drag any member of the Legislature into the mess but to show the public that the board is doing its duty for the corporation.

Raho recommended that the board send a letter to the Legislature explaining about the travel documents and their fiduciary duty to have oversight on the CEO's actions.

"The board in this matter is simply doing its fiduciary duty. It's not our intent to drag any member of the Legislature into this mess. Our only duty here is oversight of the CEO and I think we did that appropriately and these TAs speak for itself. Again, we have no oversight of the Legislature, but the CEO signed all these TAs and by doing this, he himself dragged the lawmakers into this," said Raho.

The board also asked Babauta to return all "unjustified" amount expended for the Tinian travel.

Babauta has already been fired by the board.

COO and CFO Esther Muña has been named interim CEO until a permanent replacement is found.

LUJAN

From Page 1

In his declarations filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Lujan also revealed that he may be filing at least five motions in Ayuyu's two cases—the obstruction of justice and the cellphone use.

Court-appointed counsel Bruce Berline is counsel for Ayuyu in the *fanihi* or fruit bat case.

Lujan has refused to accept the *fanihi* case, saying it is time consuming for him and that he has other cases in Guam for trials in May and June.

Lujan said he has had a chance to conduct an initial review of the discovery provided by the U.S. Attorney in the two cases.

From his initial review, he said it is apparent and essential that he conduct his own investigation and interview of potential witnesses.

In the cellphone use case, Lujan identified one potential witness as Daniel Quitugua and disclosed that other potential witnesses are five to six DOC officials and officers.

Among the motions that may be filed in this case are motion to suppress statements made by Ayuyu and motion to dismiss the information for various legal bases.

In the obstruction of justice case, motions that may be filed are motion to suppress statements made by Ayuyu, motion to disqualify counsel, and a motion to dismiss the indictment, Lujan said.

In his request to delay the original May 13 and May 15 jury trials, Lujan said he is unable to devote the required time to conduct the interviews and prepare the necessary motions in preparation for the trial on those dates.

On Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Lujan's request to move the jury trials to another date.

The new trial date in the cellphone use case is now July 23, 2013; the joint trial in the fruit bat case and the obstruction of justice case is now on July 29, 2013.

A pre-trial conference will be held on July 2.

In the first two cases, the 48-year-old Ayuyu is charged with alleged conspiracy to smuggle eight dead Mariana fruit bats from Rota to Saipan in October 2010, concealing the bats inside a cardboard box beneath 40 lbs of lemons. A joint jury trial in the two cases was supposed to commence last April 1.

In the third case, Ayuyu is charged with possession of a cell phone while in detention.

$1.4M incentive for electronic health record project released

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center, is flanked by health officials and members of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board in this group photo taken Friday after the turnover rite for the $1.4 million incentive reimbursement for the hospital's electronic health record system.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos turned over Friday a check worth $1.4 million to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., representing the first year incentive reimbursement for the hospital's electronic health record, or EHR, system.

The State Medicaid Health Information Technology program awarded the amount to the corporation as its incentive for adopting, implementing, and upgrading to the certified Resource and Patient Management System, or RPMS, for electronic health records.

The corporation inked a $1.58 million loan agreement with the Marianas Public Land Trust last year so it could start the EHR program at the Commonwealth Health Center. Of the amount, the corporation has already drawn down $300,000, which Inos said the corporation can now pay back.

Inos said he is pleased that the corporation has moved forward with full implementation of the certified EHR because it will help improve patient care, patient safety, public health reporting, and health information exchange for CNMI residents.

"I am aware of the RPMS since we initiated implementation of the system well over 17 years ago, but lacked the resources to fully implement the clinical and billing and accounts receivable modules," said Inos

The Commonwealth is now making significant and measurable progress through the efforts of the CHCC and the CNMI Medicaid Agency, he added.

Inos also recognized Dr. Norman Okamura, director of the University of Hawaii Telecommunications and Social Informatics Research Program, for his assistance and support for the EHR project. Special recognition was also accorded CHCC staff and the Medicaid Office.

Through this electronic health project, CHC will now be able to analyze healthcare problems in a more systematic process. Inos pointed out that the EHR incentive is not based on "best effort" but on meeting specific benchmarks in the CMMS rules and regulations.

According to CNMI Medicaid Agency administrator Helen Sablan, the CNMI is the first Pacific territory to launch the Medicaid incentive payment and CHCC, as the first one to register, is the first one to get paid.

Corporation COO and CFO Esther Muña said that the remaining $1.1 million (less the $300,000 that will be paid to MPLT) will greatly help improve the project.

Tony Reyes, RPMS network director of CHCC, said the incentive will provide much-needed funding for resources needed to make the project successful. He cited the need to buy computers and improve the infrastructure for the project.

Saipan Tribune learned that the corporation is expected to get between $300,000 and $400,000 during the second year of the incentive reimbursement. The amount may become available within the year.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services encourages the use of electronic health record systems by providers and health agencies to plan, implement, and sustainably maintain a secure health information exchange capability connected to the National Health Information Network. The plan builds on the capacity of local and regional exchange efforts.

Ex-convict on probation admits to 'ice' use

A man on federal probation for armed robbery has admitted to using "ice" or methamphetamine.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week that Daniel M. Quitugua reported to the U.S. Probation Office on March 6, 2013, for a drug test but, before submitting to the test, confessed to having used "ice" that same day.

Arriola said that, on March 5, 2013, the probationer submitted to a drug test at the U.S. Probation Office and the results indicated that the sample was diluted.

Arriola said that Quitugua admitted to drinking a gallon of water prior to reporting to the office and that it was a routine he performs every morning.

Quitugua was then instructed not to consume large amounts of liquids prior to submitting to a drug test.

Arriola said that Quitugua was informed that he would be regressed to phase 1 of the drug testing program as a result of his drug use.

The probation officer said that Quitugua apologized for his actions.

Arriola did not request for any court action against Quitugua for "ice" use, but pointed out that the probationer will continue to be monitored closely.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the Probation's Office's request that no action shall be taken.

Quitugua and John Gerald Castro Pangelinan robbed the Capital Poker in Sadog Tasi in 2004. Although the two failed to get any money from the arcade, Pangelinan reportedly shot and injured the security guard and a cashier.

Quitugua was sentenced to 12 months in prison for Hobbs Act robbery conspiracy, and for using and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence. Pangelinan was slapped with a 289-month sentence.

After being released from prison, Quitugua was placed on five years of supervision, which began on Jan. 14, 2013. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

JWS
Celebrating
20 YEARS
of SERVICE
1993 - 2013
AIR CONDITIONING • REFRIGERATION • HOTEL & RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT • MECHANICAL CONTRACTING
Tel. No. 235-5572/74 • Fax No. 235-5573 • Email: jwssaipan@pticom.com
BEAT THAT
SUMMER HEAT
Now Available:
9,000 BTU – 36,000 BTU Split Type Units
13 SEER – 20 SEER Inverter Units
5 Ton, 7.5 Ton and 10 Ton Package Units
MAYTAG
Haier
Goodman
DB
DUNHAM-BUSH
We Also Specialize in:
Commercial Chill Water Systems
Commercial Package & Split-Ducted System
Commercial Refrigeration and Manitowoc Ice Machines
Commercial Boiler Systems
All Types of Metal Fabrication
Call us now for an estimate at 235-5572/4 or fax 235-5573
Email: jwssaipan@pticom.com

PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Holdings executives join volunteers from Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and the Division of Environmental Quality for a group photo on April 19 before the start of the tree planting activity at Laolao Bay area. Friday's event is in conjunction of the Environmental Awareness Month and the CNMI Earth Day.

Tan Holdings joins MINA, DEQ to plant trees at Laolao Bay

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tan Holdings partnered with the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and Division of Environmental Quality to plant coconut trees at Laolao Bay on April 19 as part of the Environmental Awareness Month and CNMI Earth Day celebrations.

Some 60 executives from the largest private employer on island, along with DEQ and MINA staff and volunteers, took part in Friday's event that also supported the Go Native initiative, which promotes the planting of native trees throughout the Commonwealth.

Participants planted 120 coconut trees in the area surrounding the MINA Hut at Laolao Bay, which has been the focus of substantial conservation efforts, including the Laolao Bay Road and Coastal Management Improvement Plan and the Our Laolao Campaign.

It was the largest turnout for any tree planting activity led by Tan Holdings, a family-owned conglomerate known for its ecological advocacy and volunteerism through monthly beach cleanups and recycling programs.

"I'm just very glad to see that our company continues its commitment to protect the environment," president Jerry Tan said in an interview.

Tan, whose leadership has been instrumental in planting 400 flame trees throughout the island last year to mark the company's 40th anniversary of doing business in Micronesia, said that tree planting is one of his favorite activities because of its long-term benefits for the community and its population.

"This is not the first one and it certainly won't be the last," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lina Dimaano, Tan Holdings vice president for finance, said the company plans to hold quarterly tree planting events to promote environmental stewardship within the organization and to ensure sustainability for future generations.

"Environmental stewardship is an integral part of our corporate responsibility and is highly encouraged by no less than the Tan family through Mr. Jerry Tan. He really encourages everybody to support projects that protect the natural resources," said Dimaano, who also serves as board treasurer for the nonprofit environmental group.

MINA acting director Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong and DEQ's Jihan Buniag welcomed last week's participants.

In her remarks, Buniag acknowledged Tan Holdings for its many tree planting events.

Jihan Buniag of the Division of Environmental Quality, left, addresses Friday's participants as Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance looks on.

Tan Holdings senior vice president Eli Arago gets ready to plant one of the 120 coconut trees, as another volunteer shovels the soil.

While the company and other environmental partners of DEQ and MINA have participated in planting ornamental trees on island, efforts are now being geared toward promoting and planting native trees in the Northern Marianas.

"We want to go native primarily because it provides beauty to our islands and serve as important habitat for many of our wildlife like our endemic birds," Buniag explained.

She noted that native trees are more likely to thrive in the local climate and are less likely to introduce invasive species.

Buniag also said that planting these native trees in the Laolao Bay area would help reduce the sediments entering one of the richest marine biodiversity on island.

"Thank you for participating in this year's Go Native tree planting. We want to continue to spread the effort throughout the community and keep that going," she told her audience.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (January 25, 2013)

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
1. Adoption of Appeals Committee Decision
2. Personnel Matter: Employment Contract

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

April 22, 2013

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota for the period starting August 01, 2013 through August 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **May 7, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-019, Supply & Delivery Of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 23, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Street dancing comes to Saipan with Awaodori Festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Awaodori performers arrive at the 2013 Environmental Expo at American Memorial Park as part of their presentation for the 6th Saipan Awaodori Festival last Thursday.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

➤ Visiting Awaodori dancers from Japan take part in the festival.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Japanese street dancing was in full throttle on island Thursday with the staging of the 6th Saipan Awaodori Festival.

Presented by the non-profit group PDM Promoters, Inc., the annual festival featured 40 dancers of the Saipan Awaodori Team performing alongside 14 Awaodori dancers from the Tokyo Tensuiren, Aoeshin-Ren, and Benkei-Ren in Japan.

The performers kicked off with a show at William S. Reyes Elementary School, where some of the Saipan Awaodori dancers attend classes, and at the DFS Galleria lobby in Garapan.

At noon, the dancers headed to the American Memorial Park where they were invited to perform by organizers of the 2013 Environmental Expo.

The group showcased their choreographed street dance accompanied by music from traditional Japanese instruments to the delight of expo participants

PDM Promoters Inc.'s Misako Kamata said the morning shows only featured a dozen members of Saipan Awaodori Team since the students had to go to school.

"They were very good," said Kamata.

Thursday's performances at Fiesta Resort & Spa, Garapan Street Market, and at the soft opening of the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Festival on Friday included the entire team.

Kamata said the Saipan Awaodori Festival is a platform for cultural exchange between the two island nations in the Pacific.

According to Kamata, the festival also promotes the tourism industry and tourism-related activities not only to potential Japanese visitors but also to the Saipan Awaodori dancers as they participate not only in dancing but in doing monthly cleanups in the Garapan area.

Kamata disclosed that they have eight new members in the team, and they are being trained with the rest of the Saipan Awaodori dancers.

"We would like to have more kids join the Saipan Awaodori Team," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the group is looking at having bigger events in the future.

For more information, call 234-6900.

Saipan Awaodori dancers strike a pose during their show on April 18.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Team, along with visiting Awaodori dancers from Japan, perform for the crowd at the 2013 Environmental Expo at American Memorial Park for the 6th Saipan Awaodori Festival last Thursday.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

SPORTS & RECREATION MANAGER

Our Resort is looking for a qualified US worker candidate with previous Sports & Recreation management experience who is results driven and customer focused. He/she will take an active role within the management team and help direct and control the operation of the S&R Department and coordinate its activities in accordance with the Resort's business objectives.

As the Sports & Recreation Manager, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Leading, developing and implementing activities that appeal to a wide range of personalities and ages
- Completing needs assessments to determine what activities are needed, how often these will be offered, how seasons will affect these activities and what space or venue is required and available for participants
- Researching possible activity ideas, trying or sampling new activities and evaluating them as needed
- Creating activity schedules that reflects the Resort's needs and conceptualizing activities, which include but not limited to: kids club, sports activities, guest incentives, special packages, cultural activities, fitness center, cooperate events and tournaments
- Supervising sports and recreational staff members including lifeguards and other employees connected to the implementation of activities

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education: Associates degree in an appropriate field or equivalent years of relevant experience
- Minimum Experience: At least 3 years experience in sports and recreation, at managerial capacity, in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays
- Excellent communication, organizational, and multitasking skills are a must
- Team player

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our Resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than May 15, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

IN JOHNSON'S CLASS ACTION VS FUND, GOVT

Parties optimistic of reaching settlement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The parties in Betty Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and NMI Retirement Fund are optimistic that a settlement will be completed in the next couple of months.

At a status conference on Friday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Johnson's counsel, Margery Bronster, stated that she is still optimistic that the parties will be able to settle the dispute before chief bankruptcy judge Robert Faris. Bronster, however, asked for another status conference in two weeks.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood appointed Faris to handle settlement negotiations.

Assistant attorney general Reena Patel disclosed that the CNMI government recently submitted its settlement proposals to Faris and that they are just awaiting Johnson's reply.

Tydingco-Gatewood said it is good to know that the settlement negotiations are going expeditiously, especially since Gov. Eloy S. Inos is involved in the process.

Inos testified in court early this month, where he vouched the administration's intent to continue pursuing settlement negotiations.

Tydingco-Gatewood urged all parties in the case to continue working cooperatively to resolve all issues.

"Wish you the best in your settlement," said the judge, adding that she will issue an order scheduling the next status conference.

Fund trustee *ad litem* counsel Daniel Berman informed the court about an alleged $833,000 shortage in the allotments from the $10 million legislative appropriations.

Berman also raised to the court their concern with the status of a new bill introduced concerning a pension bond.

Patel stated that Finance Secretary Larissa Larson was just recently made aware of the Fund's claim that there is still a shortage in the allotments.

Judge Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan and Larson to work together to determine whether there is in fact a shortage.

The judge further ordered that any outstanding amount not in dispute should be transferred to the Fund by Tuesday, April 23.

Patel and assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich apprised the court about the status of the Retirement Fund pension obligations bond.

Patel said they are more than happy to discuss the bond issue with the Fund and its counsels.

Patel also informed the court that Larson's team has completed its task of reviewing the employee files to verify against the Fund's records.

Berman disclosed that the employee file verification process has been completed through fiscal year 2011 only, but that verification of contributions for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 are still pending.

Chamber opposes mandatory hookup to CUC grid

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is opposed to a bill requiring all businesses such as hotels to connect to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power grid, saying that doing so would be costlier for businesses that have already invested a lot in producing their own power.

Alex Sablan, Chamber president, said, "It is still a fact" that power can be produced at a cheaper rate at most hotels and larger businesses compared to the rate CUC charges its commercial customers.

"The SCC estimates large producers of their own power can produce power at approximately $0.22/kwh, while CUC charges about $0.31/kwh," Sablan said in a statement.

The Chamber also downplayed House Bill 18-41's findings that hotels and other businesses are putting their guests' health and safety at risk by using their own power generators.

Sablan said these statements in the bill are "an unrealistic attempt at a basis for making a case for mandatory CUC connections."

"We believe there are misrepresentations in HB 18-41's findings and purposes, and several reasons why it is not advisable to now make it mandatory to connect to CUC," the Chamber president said.

Many commercial businesses, including hotels, have been off the CUC grid, and have been using their own generators to supply power to their respective businesses.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), author of HB 18-41, said earlier that if all commercial businesses such as hotels are connected to CUC's power grid, it may result in some 5 percent reduction in utility rates because fuel bought by CUC will be used to its maximum.

The Chamber president also said "it's not fair" for private businesses to be required to hook up to CUC when they haven't recouped their investments on their own power generation systems that produce "clean, affordable, and reliable power" years after the CNMI government "asked those same businesses to install power systems because CUC could not provide power safely to all commercial customers at the time."

HB 18-41 is just one of the revenue-generating bills pending at the House at this time.

PDI DONATES TO GMS

Pacific Development Inc. (PDI) president Takahiro Tomie, left, PDI director Gordon Maricano, right, and PDI Tour desk manager Yui Deleon Guerrero, second from left, present a $700 check to Green Meadow School president Mila Merjilla, as PDI's donation to the school. Merjilla, on behalf of Green Meadow School, expresses her sincere appreciation to PDI for its generous donation to GMS. Merjilla assures PDI that the funds will be spent responsibly for the benefits of GMS students.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

StayWell settles $48K lawsuit

StayWell Guam Inc. and Stay Well Saipan Inc. have settled for $48,000 the medical malpractice lawsuit filed by a man who lost the sight of his right eye after an accident from brush cutting in 2010.

StayWell and plaintiff Thomas M. Deleon Guerrero, through their respective lawyers, David W. Dooley and Joseph J. Iacopino, informed the U.S. District Court Friday that they will submit a proposed settlement agreement to the court in advance of the hearing for its review.

According to court papers, Guerrero was a covered dependent under a Certificate of Group Health Plan Coverage with StayWell held by the plaintiff's wife, Oliva.

Dooley and Iacopino stated in a joint motion that they have reached a settlement that fully resolves all claims that have been brought or could have been brought among the settling parties.

The lawyers said Deleon Guerrero is executing a release and settlement agreement in favor of StayWell in exchange for the payment of $48,000.

In addition, the lawyers said, the settling parties want a court determination that the settlement agreement is in the best interests of Deleon Guerrero and in good faith, and that the settlement amount is reasonable.

Dooley and Iacopino disclosed that StayWell has a pending motion for summary judgment that could lead to dismissal of plaintiff's common law tort claims against StayWell.

They said that if Deleon Guerrero amends his complaint in order to allege a claim under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, StayWell will assert that all the ERISA claims have been paid, possibly leaving plaintiff with no recovery from StayWell.

As such, the lawyers said, the payment of $48,000 is a good settlement as it guarantees a substantial sum from StayWell.

Deleon Guerrero was clearing brush over inclined ground on March 17, 2010, when he slipped, lost his balance, and struck a tree initially with his right eye. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 23, 2004

'Most water pipes on Saipan are new'

Most of Saipan's old waterlines-asbestos and steel-have been replaced with PVC pipes, boosting the government's claim that most water leaks now occur on the customer side. Charles Jordan, the governor's special advisor on capital improvement projects and Water Task Force member, estimates that nearly 90 percent of the islands' main water pipes have been replaced. "The actual distribution system is pretty much in good shape. Most of them are new," he said. He made the statement to emphasize that the Saipan's water distribution system is not dilapidated, as was earlier reported.

Over $1M OK'd to build classrooms

Over $1 million has been appropriated for the construction of HeadStart centers and additional classrooms for the Public School System. The appropriation became official yesterday when Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed into law House Bill 14-62 at the Susupe Fire Station. The bill becomes Public Law 14-3. "The administration fully supports construction of additional infrastructure to support our educational system in the Commonwealth and considers these capital improvement projects to be essential to enabling the [Public School System] to meet the educational needs of our children," the governor said in a statement. "I commend the authors of this bill and all the members of the 14th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature for passing this important measure in a timely manner."

Apr. 23, 2005

MPLA opposes underground cable bill

A bill barring the Marianas Public Lands Authority from charging Verizon for burying cables in public lands will have a negative impact on the agency's capacity to undertake future homestead projects, the MPLA said yesterday. MPLA public information officer Edward Arriola Jr. said MPLA was acting in the best interest of the Commonwealth in seeking compensation for Verizon's use of public lands for its underground cables. Arriola issued the statement following the introduction of House Bill 14-324, which would prohibit MPLA to assess rent on any regulated utility's underground cable. Utilities covered by the bill include all companies that provide telephone, cable television, and/or power service.

CPA defers action on new terminal system

The installation of common use terminal equipment at the Saipan International Airport is unreasonable and too costly, according to Asiana Airlines. "We support the idea to make Saipan International Airport more modernized. However, it is a drastic change with no support from the airlines that will be affected directly [by] it," said Kim Young Jon, Asiana station manager for Saipan. On Thursday, the Commonwealth Ports Authority again deferred action on the proposed regulations making the utilization of the new terminal system mandatory for all airlines at the Saipan airport. CPA executive director Carlos Salas said the board of directors needed more time to study the proposal. The plan has been under discussion for at least four months now.

Apr. 23, 2006

Fitial offers land to honor Japan emperor

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has volunteered his family land for the construction of a memorial commemorating the 2005 visit of Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to Saipan. "I have offered my own family land in Marpi to build a memorial in honor of Emperor Akihito's recent visit to the Commonwealth," said Fitial in his first annual State of the Commonwealth Address on April 22. The emperor and empress made a historic visit to Saipan on June 28 and 29, 2005, to mourn World War II dead. Also, the governor said that his administration aims to build a temple and another Japanese memorial in the CNMI "in honor of World War II casualties."

Pete A: CNMI retains Headnote consultant

The CNMI government continues to get assistance from a consultant in Washington D.C. for the amendment of the Headnote 3(a) of the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Code, said Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio. In an interview after Friday's State of the Commonwealth Address, Tenorio said that the government has retained the services of the consultant that was hired by the previous administration. "We still have the consultant," said Tenorio. The Babauta administration had hired Sandler, Travis, and Rossenberg to help the CNMI lobby Congress for the tariff amendment, which would help boost the local garment manufacturers' competitiveness in the world market.

Over 130 students, youth take part in NMC Career Fair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 130 students and youth from the community took part in Northern Marianas College's annual Career Fair in a bid to find jobs on island.

According to the college's career manager, Neda Deleon Guerrero, about 15 companies and government agencies also participated in the activity—all wanting to provide employment help to those who need it.

"The turnout was very successful. Just within the 30 minutes of the event, we had over 70 participants, mostly students from the campus," she told *Saipan Tribune* during Thursday's event.

NMC usually conducts its career fair exclusively for its graduate students. The program was expanded and opened to the community for bigger results. The career fair held Thursday in Room D-1 of the college was supported by the College Access Challenge Grant, which is a program of the U.S. Department of Education.

For DFS Saipan human resource manager Esther Ada, the fair is a great opportunity for the company to introduce their job openings to the community. Ada, along with her colleagues, was seen attending to and accommodating participants' queries about potential jobs.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

DFS human resource manager Esther Ada, center, along with her colleagues, are all smiles while waiting for participants during NMC Career Fair on campus last week.

Among the DFS openings are sales associate positions. Company representatives briefed students on the trainings they offer such as language trainings and various product knowledge trainings. Ada said the company offers part-time, full-time, and as-needed positions.

Also seen busy attending to participants was NMC HR staffer Jack Kiyoshi who provided informational materials about the college, including job openings and related materials. Kiyoshi said it is also the objective of the college to provide students knowledge about effective resume writing, job hunting, and others.

For Herbert Maranan, a 19-year-old student of NMC, it is interesting to see that many companies remain committed to providing help to those who want to work and study at the same time.

As a business management student, he aims for a related job so he could gain worthwhile experience that he could use in the future.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to a special man, Harland M Delos Reyes! Wishing you the very best on your special day and many more to come. May the lord continue to bless you not only today, but everyday! We love you! Love, Rheanna and Zel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy 9th birthday to Justice! May your life be filled with lots of blessings and love! Greetings come from your cousins, aunties, uncles, grandma, your brothers, and most of all your sister.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI Judiciary bids farewell to Heather Kennedy

Members of the CNMI Legislature present Heather Kennedy, outgoing executive director of the Law Revision Commission, with resolutions delineating and attesting to her contributions to the enhancement of justice. From left to right, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Kennedy, Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao, Rep. Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez, and Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero

NMI JUDICIARY

With Heather L. Kennedy are, from left, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos, Chief Public Defender Chief Public Defender Doug Hartig, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, CNMI Bar Association president Sean E. Frink, CNMI Bar Association representative to the Law Revision Commission Bruce L. Mailman, and Associate Justice John A. Manglona.

NMI JUDICIARY

At a farewell luncheon held in her honor on her last day with the CNMI Judiciary, Heather L. Kennedy, executive director for the Law Revision Commission through Friday, April 12, received resolutions from her judiciary colleagues and plaques expressing praise and thanks from representatives of both the Senate and the House of Representative, noting her outstanding contributions to the enhancement of justice in the CNMI.

Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao and Reps. Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero spoke of Kennedy's positive impact on the legislative process and governance during tenure with the commission.

Kennedy joined the Law Revision Commission in April 2007 as a staff attorney and took on the executive director's responsibilities in October 2008. During the last three years, she had also been the CNMI Judiciary's legal counsel. She departed the CNMI Judiciary to serve as Clerk of Court at the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

During her four and half years as executive director, the commission published numerous legal publications, including Volumes 7-8 of the *NMI Reporters,* an updated CNMI Code (2010), and the first ever comprehensive *Digest of Decisions and Citations*, which contains analysis of CNMI case law from 1979-2011. She spearheaded the modernization of the Law Revision Commission, which now provides an improved cnmilaw.org website with expanded search capabilities. Also, several invaluable resources are coming in the near future such as a CD of the CNMI statutes and a Law Enforcement Officer's Manual.

In addition to her efforts to make the CNMI's law more accessible, Kennedy is also known in the community as the mock trial coordinator. Her efforts to maintain and improve the high school mock trial program has allowed public and private high schools from all three islands to compete each year for a chance to represent the CNMI in the National Mock Trial Championships.

Kennedy was born in New York and raised in Connecticut. She graduated with honors from Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, and earned her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri. Before moving to Saipan, Kennedy worked as an assistant public defender in Charlotte, North Carolina, and as litigation associate for a corporate law firm in St. Louis, Missouri.

Arriving on Saipan in 1999, Kennedy worked as legal counsel and equal employment opportunity officer for the Board of Education and the Public School System until joining the Judiciary in 2007. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 80

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Gun vote was a beginning, not an end

When President Barack Obama on Thursday in Boston referred to "small, stunted individuals who would destroy instead of build," he was talking about terrorists.

He was talking about the people who planted the two bombs that destroyed the pure joy of the Boston Marathon on Monday, killing three, injuring dozens, jarring the national consciousness.

But the president could just as easily have been talking about the cowards in the U.S. Senate who the day before killed what was at most a minimalist attempt to bring some level of sanity to the nation's gun debate.

Had the traditional rules of parliamentary procedure been in place, the Senate actually would have passed a bill to expand gun background checks to include online sales and gun shows. The proposal, among the weakest of possible gun control proposals, was supported by a clear majority, 54-46. But because Senate leaders had to agree to a 60-vote threshold just to get Republicans to allow the measure to come to the floor, it failed.

Here's the most important element of that vote: It didn't fail after a long debate. It didn't fail on its merits. It failed because Republicans—most of them anyway—were more interested in lying about the bill than passing sound public policy.

Here's Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri, for instance, talking about his no vote on Fox News:

"It potentially could lead to a gun registry."

That, to borrow one of Mr. Obama's words from his angry Wednesday speech, is just a lie.

There is nothing in the background check bill that would, potentially or otherwise, create a gun registry. There is nothing in the bill that would do anything to diminish Second Amendment rights to "keep and bear arms."

There is nothing in the bill that is worth a no vote unless you are a fully owned subsidiary of the National Rifle Association.

Mr. Blunt is. He even voted against allowing the gun control legislation to be debated.

So are most of the other Republicans who voted against the bill and the four Democrats who joined them. Three of the four are up for re-election next year.

They're cowards. All of them.

Their no votes are not the biggest problem. The fact that they won't debate the issue on its merits and invent straw men to obfuscate their true intentions is the bigger issue. This is what is wrong with the Senate, what's wrong with Congress, what's wrong with America. It's bigger than guns, or immigration, or debt ceilings.

We have become so afraid to call a lie a lie (and we include ourselves in that), that "spin" has become an accepted part of the political process.

Enough is enough.

The Greek philosopher Plato told us that, "The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men."

In other words, we deserve the Congress we're stuck with.

For too long, the great American middle has ceded the playing field. It's time to take it back.

It's time to rally behind Democrats like Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Republicans like Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois, who took courageous votes on the background check legislation, standing with the 91 percent of Americans who believe it's reasonable to check gun buyers for felony or mental health backgrounds that might disqualify them from ownership.

It's time to rally behind grass-roots, bipartisan movements like Moms Demand Action and Mayors Against Illegal Guns and let politicians in 2014 and 2016 know that their cowardice will no longer be accepted.

As former Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords wrote in the New York Times on Thursday, the nation should "not rest until we have righted the wrong these senators have done."

What those senators did was small. It was stunted. It destroyed the hope of victims of Newtown and Aurora that our broken Congress can ever break out of its dysfunction and serve a needy nation.

See GUN on Next Page

Earth Day USA

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.

The key word for today's Earth Day is "resilience," adapting to the environment. We've given up on "sustainability" since it has come to mean maintaining a process of normalcy following a rational statistical curve. Translated in our dependence to oil, and the financial ledger of the statistical peak oil, Earth Day is a tableau for doomsday!

The planet's consumptive rate at the moment is a full 150 percent off its normal holding capacity, so, in business terms, we are living off the capital. Or, if we are the Retirement Fund, we are dispersing benefits from capital investments rather than gains. As GovCNMI's retirement counterpart has long been a figment of employees' imagination, the Earth's sustaining capability for the human race is on the wane.

Our rapacious consumption of the Earth's natural resource is a human choice. It affects how we live. The planet itself just shrugs off in a few tectonic shifts the weight of melted ice when it gets too heavy on a spot. It is "resilient" to changes, compared to our irreversible proclivity to orgy our life away irrespective of any consequence.

Australian author Peter Russell used the term "global brain" in a 1982 bestseller that focused our attention not only to the umbilical ties that connect humans to the planet, but also human's acting as the planets brain, albeit cancerous in behavior and history. Human behavior is like carbon-belching vehicles in the neural connections akin to the traffic in Los Angeles!

Pinoys tend to be satirical when in pain. Jokes on *'Cano* Ferdinand (Ilo*cano* who is really an Ameri*cano!*) and the Imeldific *Waray* flourished in the aftermath of the International Airport blatant assassination of former senator Ninoy Aquino in '84. I was at the domestic airport then, to board a flight to Legaspi City, when I wondered at the unusual presence of uniformed personnel.

After the afternoon news flash, by evening we were exchanging jokes while quaffing our San Mig foam as our telling drowned in someone's maudlin rendition of the country's second national anthem, *My Way,* in the din of the varied languages of Bisakol, while flares from burning tires littered the streets and lit up Manila's skies.

We must be in pain these days as our satirical bent is getting more dim. Earth Day in China is a sad one as photos of devastation 70 miles north of Chengdu in Sichuan's Lushun County of the 2008 tremor shows rubble again. Folks just gaining a modicum of psychological and financial equilibrium are wailing on the floor once more.

Premier Li Keqiang, an equally determined version of Wen Jiabao, was on site by helicopter to direct salvage operations and save lives as the count mounted past 160. Not quite the 90,000 that were quickly snuffed in 2008, but lost lives and damaged properties are tearing out the tears from many eyes nonetheless.

In the U.S., mothers and children are organizing against what they consider to be a toxic menace to human lives. Fracking, short for "hydraulic fracturing," where pressurized chemicals, water, and sand are injected into shale deposits to release their methane gas contents, is intruding into American lives.

The process costs more than extraction of coal but cheaper than drilling for oil, so the Marcellus Shale in the U.S., the largest known deposit that lies underneath New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, has bankers, investors, and oil company drillers genuflecting before the altar of the dollar.

Not only is fracking a sore environmental sight, it also disrupts life in the wild, and is a toxic concoction in settled communities (six wells within a square mile). However, the companies are protected by law (thanks to Cheney's alertness and Halliburton's connections) from disclosing the cocktail of chemicals they inject into the ground, it being a trade secret. Puh-l-e-e-z-e!

The above is just one instance in the increasing intrusion of chemicals into our body metabolism, from preservatives in our food intakes, to the polluted air we inhale, and those with autistic children who have to deal with the neural effects of arrested development are only too clear how devastating a seemingly innocent pint of pharma can be to the human body.

We are not alarmist, though some regulators perhaps should have been when Texas' West Fertilizer Plant north of Waco failed a 2006 environmental test for ammonia in its indoor air. Eerily, the massive explosion that threw 11 first responders off their feet into memory lane had the same chemical composition that blew up the Oklahoma City Federal building in 1996.

We are still on chemicals.

Some decided to smoke it in Colorado, the second state to legalize pot, at a 4/20 concert. Someone decided to trigger some nitro flash as well, and with the Boston blasts fresh in memory, the celebrative crowd of 80,000 went berserk.

Life remains a choice, and save for those we rocket into space, Earth is where we will live, meanwhile. Refined sugar and high spirit fumes found a friendly niche in our homes, so has lab's Meta made abode in our bodes (50 percent of Saipan residents, I was told) mitigating fat, arresting aging, and enhancing muscle functions.

How our bodies will adapt after cocktails determine survival. Resilience is the word, so "resiliate" well. Choose healthy. Have a good Earth Day, USA!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tradision peskan chenchulu

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Sessu antes mandaña i familia yan bisinu man-chenchulu entalo' Oleai yan Puntan Muchot. Estague' un' manera 'nai maprebeniye nesessidat familia fina' totche ginen i tasi.

Matutuhon hinalan chenchulu entalu' Oleai sige katan esta iya Puntan Muchot. Machochogue lokue' este deste Sadog Tasi katan esta i kanton tasin Matansa.

I man-amku' man-ge'fena gi este na offisiun natibu. Man-mafanue' man-hoben preparasion chenchulu. Sumasaunau panag para umasugon halom i guihan gi chenchulu esta i betsa. Dispues man-li'of para umatogcha' guihan siha ni man-atog gi halom unai. Yangin esta siña un' kone' I guihan gi taiguine, pues mauleg ha esta na peskadot.

Este na kutturata sumede famaguonta man-eyag mañochu guihan para siempre sa' manmafana'gue nu i mañainata. Haf" ineyag niha siempre siha mismu fumana'gue famaguon niha dispues.

Guaha lokue' tumuñgu tumampe madog sagua gi tat lugat kumu iya Laulau. 'An un' fagchae' munton tataga', guile, manineñg, yan hiting libianu matiteg teken-mu.

Hu chage lokue' tumampe dañkulu na sagun atulai. Diberas, tañke pot tañke inna' bula gi halom una ora. Guaha rumidonduye ni teken i tinampen niha ya ayu 'nai mahahatsa 'an manesessita.

Un' kuttura ni matutuhon deste tiempon Jesukristu. Ta abiba sa' mabendise deste 5,000 años antes. Pa'gu i fangualu'an, todu i mas man-atbansau na nasion ginen este tutuhon niha. Propiu mohon na ta bisita este na patte gi tradision natibu?

Areglu yan kuttura

I hagas ta offisiona na modun linala' gi hechuran chenchulu, dinisgrana ni man-nuebu siha na areglun federat gi papa' offisinan Fish and Wildlife, DNLR.

Mas mana' presisu i areglu ke uma-atan yan establese haf' mauleg para proteksion todu atmos banda—programa para uma-adelanta i numeron fanihe yan inadahe ginen i publiku gi hasan na hagas totchen natibu. Komprendiyon i areglu lau makat hu pañot i para umatrata kumu kriminat i umaminasa lai pot presetbasion fanihe.

Estague' siha na areglun federat kulan mohon man-mapega para umana' kesnuda i natibu gi kutturaña. Na ti debi u guaha inina taimanu lai federat ni kontra yan kuttura 'nai siña ma-implementa sin aminasu gi kutturan natibu?

Yangin ti ma-ebalua ya makorihe destrosiun lai' federat ni umakontra yan kuttura, pues mababa mas kampu para umafunas haf' kustumbren tanu' deste antes.

Sumasauna fuetsau na areglu pot peskan sanhalom 'nai manentalu' siha areglu ni umaminasa hagas kustumbren natibu. Na ti areglu debi u benefisia i tautau tanu'?

Huntan moneda

Mas sessu huntan moneda pot mampos maribaha rinikohen kontribusion tax guine. Hinehegsi este na asuntu ni manadan dibin gobietnu piot gi programan man-ritirau.

Abiu na diniseha na u lachadeg kinalamten industrian bisnis siha guine kosake u guaha mas chigu'an gi kahan iya Marianas. Mientras sige i dibina gi hegsu', sige ha' lokue' papa' i fondu gi kaha.

Debi i kapitan galaide' u le'an piot gi halom i fette na chubasku para u asegura na ti dimalas hinanau sasyan linahyan. Estague' 'nai mas didog siempre attension i man-gaige gi hegsu' i Deni'. Puede ti mangigigu hit man-mabasiha pot otru diskuidu.

Maliñgun chiop

Ti hu komprende haf' na sige ha' mattu gi hinasoghu maliñgun chiop—fina' hanom gi hagun cha'guan 'an oga'an—dispues de sirenu tulanoche.

Kau i asuntu siña ta po'lu kulan finapos tiempu ni esta gaige gi santatte? Kulan lokue' parehu yan guinaifen mañglu' ni ti tuñgu'un tutuhoña 'sino finagpo'ña. Pañgpañg ginen haya dispues maliñgu gi sanlagu.

Yangin ginen haya, manu gi sanhaya 'nai ha tutuhongue'? 'An maliñgu gi sanlagu, amanu ennau na lugat? Dispensa i asuntu lau fina' dibina na ni guahu ti siña hu oppe kabales.

■ ■ ■

Ha estotba-yu' i hinemlu' tautau-ta ni sige mas dumidog deste daibites, korason yan todu klasen kanset. Guaha 'nai in' hassu haf" na taiguine hinemlu' natibu? Kau gaige i problema gi bandan bisiu pat haga' natibu?

Afañielos, un' asuntu na fuetsau debi ta atan kritikatmiente sa' dañosu mampos para i natibu. Mientras mas megai man-inamisa seriosu na chetnot, achachagigu hulu' yan gaston este na chinatsaga. Yangin ilelegta na presisu hinemlu' famaguonta, pa'gu i tiempu 'nai debi ta petsige inadiñgan hinemlu' natibu.

Yangin guaha disision para programan edukasion publiku, mauleg ta tutuhon gi famaguonta. Siha siña chumalapon impottansian hinemlu sin ditension. Pot fabot maila ta tutuhon dinaña inadiñgan hinemlo'ta. 'An tita chogue este, pues mas siempre ma-umenta seriosu na chetnot yan chinatsagan familia punta pot punta.

■ ■ ■

Haf" na 'nai kanset gofesña i tautau masoyu' na u para chumupa? Ti dididi' atrasau este na inapagat? Na ti guaha lokue' manpininu' kanset gofes lau ni unabes 'nai masopla sigariyu?

Bad journalism fuels terrorism hysteria

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

Robin Abcarian is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

What is wrong with the *New York Post*?

Thursday morning, the tabloid newspaper's front page featured a huge photo of two young men with backbacks, with the giant headline: "Bag Men: Feds seek these two pictured at Boston Marathon."

In the online story, the pair's faces had big red circles around them. Yes, sort of like targets. Turns out, the young men had nothing to do with the blasts.

Thursday afternoon, the *Post* backpedaled: "Investigators have now cleared the two men whose pictures were circulated last night in an email among law enforcement officials, sources told *The Post* today. Authorities determined neither had any information or role in Monday's attacks at the Boston Marathon."

After an appropriate hail of criticism, *Post* Editor Col Allan, incredibly, defended his decision to smear two innocent men. And yes, that was a smear.

"We stand by our story," Allan said in a statement sent to several news organizations. "The image was emailed to law enforcement agencies yesterday afternoon seeking information about these men, as our story reported. We did not identify them as suspects."

True. The story didn't identify the pair by name, and did not call them "suspects." But by making a lame pun about their backpacks, the *Post* leaped past any kind of journalistic restraint and implied the men were suspects in the case. How could you read the photo and the giant headline any other way?

ABC News tracked down one of the young men, actually, a teenager, slimed by the *Post*:

"Salah Barhoun, 17, said he went to the police yesterday to clear his name after he found himself tagged in pictures online. He had just gone to watch the race, he said, but soon after the explosions, he was singled out by Internet sleuths as looking suspicious. Federal authorities passed around images of Barhoun, attempting to learn more information about him, sources told ABC News."

When the FBI did release photographs of two men it is seeking in connection with the attacks Thursday afternoon, they didn't look anything like the two young men whose lives the *Post* tried to ruin.

News organizations have performed spectacularly this week, but it is their unfortunate lapses that will be remembered, and probably taught as cautionary tales.

On Wednesday, CNN, Fox News and the Associated Press erroneously reported that an arrest had been made in the case. Other outlets, including *The Times*, then reported what those other news outlets were saying. NBC and the *New York Times* did not report the faux arrest, nor did they report what others were saying.

But CNN had a double dose of egg on its face when veteran reporter John King said his sources told him that the arrestee was a "dark-skinned male." King qualified the statement as much as possible, and cautioned not to leap to conclusions, but once he uttered the phrase, the damage was done.

Claims feed into stereotypes and affirm our worst prejudices. A Saudi Arabian kid running from the blast must be the suspect. A couple of swarthy backpack-toting kids watching the race must be the suspects. The *New York Post* promulgated both those stories.

This is how hysteria starts.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Speak truth to new graduates

In about a little over a month from now, all public and private high schools in the CNMI will be graduating their successful seniors. The aura of elation in pomp and circumstance fills the air once again as these graduating students celebrate a milestone in their life, earning a high school diploma as testaments to their lifelong education built over the course of twelve years of formal education. But the night also is ceremoniously important for those in the educational institutions that made it possible educating these graduating students and deserve every moment of recognition as well. Each graduation venue by tradition and customary practice includes an inspirational keynote speaker to deliver the parting messages of the night for the graduates.

What will be substantive messages by these keynote speakers for the graduates this year? If one would revisit the speeches made by keynote speakers in graduation ceremonies over the course of the last 10 years, one would find some common themes that are repeated and rephrased by use of words, saying just about the same thing. Words such as: opportunity, challenge, dream, new horizon, hope, potential, focus, charge, take control, leader of tomorrow, and similar words are embedded in speeches by past keynote speakers of our graduation ceremonies. Any speech is a display of the speaker's "discovery of a truth," in addition to his "knowledge of a truth."

Aside from the pure rhetorical use of words, we should be mindful in our expectations for this year's keynote speakers that they present clear evidences and actual facts when expressing thoughts or suggestions and encouragement for our graduates. The question is what would be those new talking points, or do we just submit to a repeat of what we already know is just as good? Here is why we need to hear a different tone, beat, and note in this year's commencement pomp and circumstance graduation celebration speeches of our designated keynote speakers.

These graduating students are joining the ranks of their peers in the 18-31 age group of the NMI population. The discourse should express what it means to be in this age group. The truth about life troubles and challenges should be listed in any order. For instance, is it a necessary matter to say that these graduates should expect a lengthy period of unemployment after graduation day? What about the cause of poverty that confronts this age group in our society? What social and economic support systems could they acquire to sustain a decent standard of living? Does the CNMI have enough job openings that these graduates could compete for and land a job in a job market that prefers hiring CWs? The point is, this age group is hardest hit by our present and immediate future economic outlook. So, whoever accepts to be a keynote speaker of commencement exercises should talk truth about the sign of times, about the reality of the cruel world these graduates are entering into for now and the next five years. It is with great anticipation and painful transition for parents and these entrant adults to adult life, and what is waiting for them in a lagging and struggling economy such as that of the CNMI is true and unavoidable.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

GUN

From Page 10

The challenge now, for those angry at the Senate, for those, like Ms. Giffords, "furious" that a faction of gun extremists can block the simplest legislation intended only to keep guns from felons and the mentally ill, for those angry that the majority of Americans feel shut out of the political process, is to build something.

Build hope. Build momentum. Build a future in which congressional cowards fear your power more than the gun lobby's.

Wednesday's vote wasn't the end. It was the beginning. It was a reset of the national debate.

No more lying. No more kowtowing to a narrow sect of angry primary voters and the deep-pocketed special interests who stir them up for their own purposes.

It's time for a new beginning, and Mr. Obama has to lead us there. He'll need moms. He'll need sons and daughters. He'll need politicians unafraid of the next election.

"We'll pick ourselves up," the president told Bostonians on Thursday.

"We'll keep going. We'll finish the race."

©2013 St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.
▲86° ▼77°

WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.
▲88° ▼76°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°

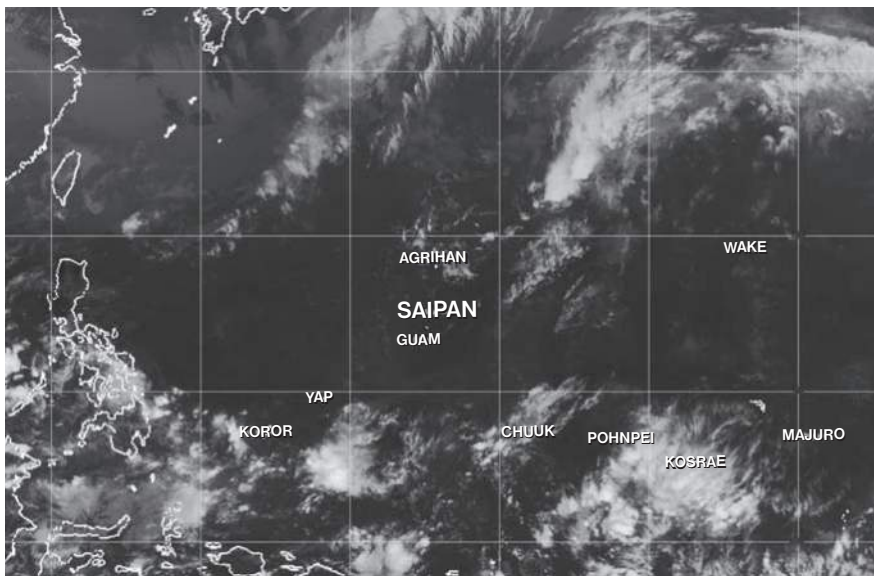
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼81
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲69	▼64
Beijing	Showers	▲67	▼46
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼72
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲72	▼54
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲66	▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲83	▼70
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼42
Osaka	Cloudy	▲66	▼56
Paris	Cloudy	▲61	▼49
Pusan	Showers	▲62	▼56
Rome	Showers	▲65	▼51
Salem	Sunny	▲66	▼36
San Francisco	Sunny	▲78	▼58
Seoul	Cloudy	▲57	▼51
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼56
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼46

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from 25N144E to beyond 130E at 18N. Low-level clouds and patchy showers are found along and up to 320 miles northwest of this boundary between 10N and 20N. Water vapor imagery continues to show that dry atmospheric conditions continue to prevail in the deep tropics. An equatorial trough has formed south of Palau stretching from 4N130E to the equator and 145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of the trough axis farther to the east. A broad area of low-level trade-wind convergence is helping to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in three locations within Micronesia, the first located between 141E and 145E from 3N to 8N is supported by a weak wave in the easterlies. The next area is located mainly south of Chuuk and Pohnpei and west of Kosrae between 146E and 160E from the equator to 5N. The third area is located primarily south of the Marshalls between 169E and 180 from 4N to the equator.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:23 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
6:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:09 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:06 PM	3:36 AM
Wednesday	5:02 PM	4:20 AM
Thursday	6:01 PM	5:07 AM
Friday	7:03 PM	5:57 AM
Saturday	8:05 PM	6:51 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
0Z604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

World finance leaders say growth still weak

WASHINGTON (AP)—While world finance leaders say the global economy has improved slightly this year, they said the outlook for the future was uneven with growth and job creation still too weak.

The policy-setting committee for the 188-nation International Monetary Fund said governments need to act decisively to nurture a lasting recovery and restore the resiliency of the global economy.

But the major economies could not reach a consensus on what policies to follow as they move forward.

"The commodity that is in shortest supply now is confidence," Tharman Shanmugaratnam, the chairman of the IMF panel and Singapore's finance minister told reporters. "We need to regenerate optimism and confidence."

The World Bank announced that its steering committee had approved a proposal to establish the goal of eliminating extreme poverty by 2030. The bank defines this condition as living on less than $1.25 a day. The bank estimates there are 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia.

A spokeswoman for Oxfam , the anti-poverty group, Emma Seery, said while the World Bank target was welcome "we are concerned that it will duck the tough choices needed to reach it."

The weekend began with two days of discussions among finance leaders of the Group of 20 nations, composed of major economies such as the United States, Germany and Japan and fast-growing developing nations like China, Brazil and India. The meetings of the IMF and its sister lending institution, The World Bank, followed.

The finance ministers tried to show they were cooperating even though they did not resolve differences that surfaced after an initially flawed bailout of Cyprus in March. The banking troubles on the Mediterranean island renewed fears that a prolonged European debt crisis still posed risks to the global economy.

The U.S. urged European nations to scale back their austerity programs of spending cuts and tax increases in favor of more stimulus to boost growth and combat high unemployment in countries such as Spain and Greece.

But the push was met with resistance from Germany and Britain, which believe heavily indebted European nations must reduce their debts to give markets confidence and keep government borrowing costs low. In the end, the financial leaders sought to bridge the difference by issuing economic blueprints that left room for both the growth and austerity camps to claim victory.

The G-20 nations did reject proposals to issue hard targets for reducing budget deficits, a victory for the United States and Japan, which had argued for more flexibility.

AP

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, right, of Nigeria listens with Ali Soilihi, left, Vice President, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Budget, External Trade and Privatization, Union of Comoros as Alamine Ousmane Mey, center, Minister of Finance of Cameroon speaks during the new briefing by African Finance Ministers at the World Bank IMF Spring Meetings in Washington, April 20, 2013.

Slovenia insists it's not the next Cyprus

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia (AP)—Slovenian officials have a message for the world: Don't panic—we won't be the next to fall.

The tiny European Union member is trying to convince its people and foreign investors that it won't be the next in line for a banking system collapse and a messy international bailout.

"We are absolutely no Cyprus," says new Slovenian Prime Minister Alenka Bratusek. "We don't need help. All we need is time."

But time is running out for the Balkan state, once considered an East European success story and a model for the rest of the region on how to build a post-communist economy. With few specifics from leaders on a rescue plan, some economists are skeptical they can live up to their promises.

Slovenia desperately needs fundamental reform of its banking and economic system if it is to avoid the same fate as Cyprus, a fellow member of the 17-strong group of European Union countries that use the euro. The island nation was forced to ask for a bailout from its fellow eurozone countries, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund when it could not afford to support its bloated banking sector.

Now the fear is Slovenia could face the same fate. While its overall public debt load is well below the EU average, the country of 2 million is facing difficulties refinancing its debt. That has fueled fears that Slovenia—which accounts for 0.4 percent of the eurozone's overall economy—could become the sixth eurozone nation to require assistance.

At the core of Slovenia's problems are its state-run banks, which control about 60 percent of the country's banking sector.

The Alpine country's banks have been on a lending spree for years, loaning money to unprofitable state companies or privileged officials who used the cash to buy the firms they ran, using the state assets as collateral.

Israel approves 'Open Skies' deal with EU

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's Cabinet on Sunday approved a deal to allow more EU flights, hours after the country's airlines went on strike out of concerns that the agreement would cost them jobs and possibly even ruin their companies.

The approval of "Open Skies" raised the possibility of a longer, broader strike by Israel's major labor union. Already, hundreds of people scheduled to fly on Israel's three carriers, El Al, Arkia and Israir, have been stranded.

Later Sunday, Israel's main airline El-Al expanded the strike to include all its flights. The powerful Histadrut labor union said it would shut down the entire Ben-Gurion international airport on Tuesday in solidarity with the Israeli airlines.

As hundreds of union workers protested outside, the Cabinet overwhelmingly approved the agreement, which allows more carriers to serve the Israeli market.

"The Open Skies reform is good for Israel. It will lead to the lowering of prices and increase competition, and it will not harm work places in the market, rather the opposite," Israeli Finance Minister Yair Lapid said.

He said the deal would not be implemented until April 2014.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the deal. "The goal of the reform that we approved today is to lower the prices of flights to and from Israel and to increase incoming tourism," he said. Tourism is a major industry in Israel, bringing in more than 3.5 million visitors a year.

Critics warned that Israel's small fleet of planes, along with high security costs, would hinder it from competing with larger international airlines.

Ofer Eini, head of the Histadrut, told Israel Radio that he favors Open Skies, but the deal needs to be amended to secure local jobs. He said the arrangement could cause local airlines to collapse, warning that thousands of jobs are at risk.

Although Sunday's strike did not affect flights by international carriers, Eini indicated the work stoppage could be broadened. He did not elaborate, but a strike by unionized airport workers or security staff, for instance, could bring the whole airport to a standstill.

A spokeswoman for El Al, Israel's national carrier, said of 22 flights planned for Sunday, 14 were brought forward before the strike began and eight were canceled. She said the strike affected hundreds of passengers.

Travelers were given the option to transfer to other flights or get their money back, she said. She requested anonymity in line with company policy.

Some tourists stuck at the airport said they had alternate flights, but they were facing long delays.

"There are hundreds of people that can't get out, and it's a little upsetting," said Darius Schwartz, a New York native who now lives in the Israeli town of Beit Shemesh near Jerusalem. "I'm a loyal El Al customer and I'll continue to fly El Al, but there's no reason to go on strike just because of ratifying a treaty that would equalize competition," Schwartz said.

Travelers with Israir on domestic flights to Eilat, Israel's Red Sea resort, were provided with buses. The flight lasts half an hour, but the bus trip takes about four hours.

FAA furloughs kick in, some flight delays appear

Commercial airline flights moved smoothly throughout most of the country on Sunday, the first day air traffic controllers were subject to furloughs resulting from government spending cuts, though some delays appeared in the late evening in and around New York. And even though the nightmarish flight delays and cancellations that the airline industry predicted would result from the furloughs did not materialize yet, the real test will come Monday, when traffic ramps up.

Information from the FAA and others showed that flying Sunday was largely uneventful, with most flights on time. There were delays in parts of Florida, but those were caused by thunderstorms.

Mark Duell at the flight tracking website FlightAware said that John F. Kennedy and LaGuardia airports in New York indicated delays due to lower staffing starting late Sunday evening. JFK averaged 70-minute delays for inbound flights, but no detectable departure delays. LaGuardia averaged 74-minute delays for inbound flights, and departure delays of 37 minutes.

The FAA website said that flights from Philadelphia and Orlando, Fla., into John F. Kennedy, LaGuardia and Westchester County airports were delayed due to staffing issues.

The trade group Airlines for America, which represents the airlines and had predicted a big traffic snarl, said Sunday evening that it was "not seeing a significant impact at this point." A spokeswoman said the group would continue to monitor the situation, and urged flyers to stay in contact with their airlines.

The FAA said that "relatively good weather" and light traffic, which is typical of Sundays, helped keep delays in check. The agency said it would be working with airlines "to minimize the delay impacts of lower staffing" as the busy summer travel season approaches.

Government budget cuts that kicked in last month are forcing the FAA and other agencies to cut their spending. FAA officials have said they have no choice but to furlough all 47,000 agency employees, including nearly 15,000 controllers. Each employee will lose one day of work every other week. The FAA has said that planes will have to take off and land less frequently, so as not to overload the remaining controllers on duty. ***(AP)***

Nation

Police: Bombing suspects planned more attacks

BOSTON (AP)—As churches paused to mourn the dead and console the survivors of the Boston Marathon bombing Sunday, the city's police commissioner said the two suspects had such a large cache of weapons that they were probably planning other attacks. The surviving suspect remained hospitalized and unable to speak with a gunshot wound to the throat.

After the two brothers engaged in a gun battle with police early Friday, authorities found many unexploded homemade bombs at the scene, along with more than 250 rounds of ammunition.

Police Commissioner Ed Davis said the stockpile was "as dangerous as it gets in urban policing."

"We have reason to believe, based upon the evidence that was found at that scene—the explosions, the explosive ordnance that was unexploded and the firepower that they had—that they were going to attack other individuals. That's my belief at this point." Davis told CBS's "Face the Nation."

On "Fox News Sunday," he said authorities cannot be positive there are not more explosives somewhere that have not been found. But the people of Boston are safe, he insisted.

The suspects in the twin bombings that killed three people and wounded more than 180 are two ethnic Chechen brothers from southern Russia—19-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and his 26-year-old brother, Tamerlan. Their motive remained unclear.

The older brother was killed during a getaway attempt. The younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was still in serious condition Sunday after his capture Friday from a tarp-covered boat in a suburban Boston backyard. Authorities would not comment on whether he had been questioned. Sen. Dan Coats of Indiana, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Tsarnaev's throat wound raised questions about when he will be able to talk again, if ever.

The wound "doesn't mean he can't communicate, but right now I think he's in a condition where we can't get any information from him at all," Coats told ABC's "This Week."

It was not clear whether Tsarnaev was shot by police or inflicted the wound himself.

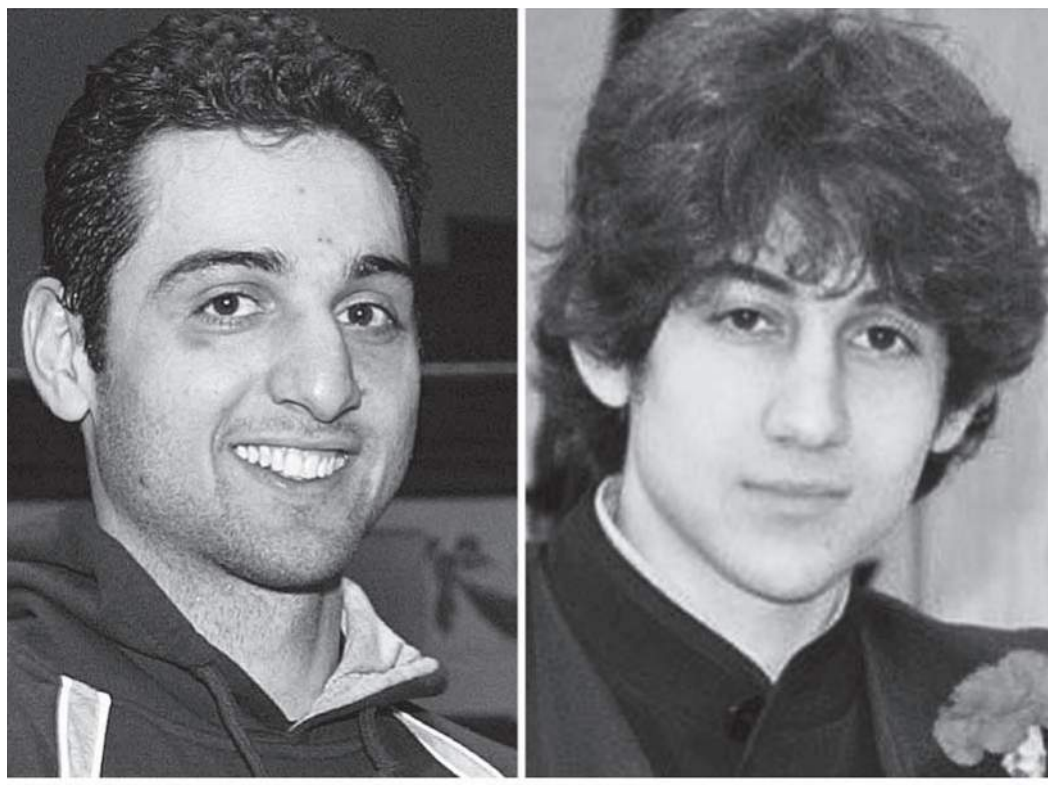
In the final standoff with police, shots were fired from the boat, but investigators have not determined where the gunfire was aimed, Davis said.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the parents of Tamerlan Tsarnaev insisted Sunday that he came to Dagestan and Chechnya last year to visit relatives and had nothing to do with the militants operating in the volatile part of Russia. His father said he slept much of the time.

The younger Tsarnaev could be charged any day. The most serious charge available to federal prosecutors would be the use of a weapon of mass destruction to kill people, which carries a possible death sentence. Massachusetts does not have the death penalty.

Across the rattled streets of Boston, churches opened their doors to remember the dead and ease the grief of the living.

At the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in South Boston, photographs of the three people killed in the attack and a Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer slain Thursday were displayed on the altar, each face illuminated by a glowing white pillar candle.

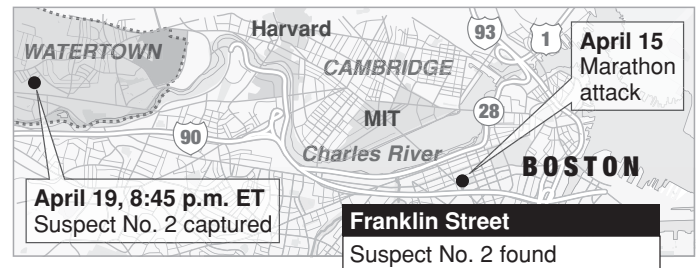


AP

This combination of undated file photos shows Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, left, and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19.

Manhunt is over

The second suspect, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, wanted in the Boston Marathon bombing, was captured alive in Watertown, Mass., after a day-long police manhunt that shut down the Boston area.



Events before the capture

Times approximate

About 7:10 p.m. ET House in Watertown surrounded

8:30 Someone is seen in boat behind house

9:00 Police take suspect away in ambulance

Graphic: Robert Dorrell, Judy Treible, Melina Yingling

Source: NBC News © 2013 MCT

Parents of Boston suspect describe his Russia trip

MAKHACHKALA, Russia (AP)—The parents of Tamerlan Tsarnaev insisted on Sunday that he came to Dagestan and Chechnya last year to visit relatives and had nothing to do with the militants operating in this volatile part of Russia. But the Boston bombing suspect could not have been immune to the attacks that savaged the region during his six-month stay.

Tsarnaev , 26, and his 19-year-old brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, are accused of setting off the two bombs near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on April 15 that killed three people and wounding more than 180 others.

Three days later, investigators say they killed a university police officer, carjacked a man and led police on a chase that resulted in a shootout that left Tamerlan Tsarnaev dead. His younger brother escaped, but was captured the next day, alive but badly wounded.

When the two ethnic Chechen suspects were identified, the FBI said it reviewed its records and found that in early 2011, a foreign government—which law enforcement officials confirmed was Russia—had asked for information about Tamerlan Tsarnaev. The FBI said it was told that Tsarnaev was a "follower of radical Islam" and was preparing to travel to this foreign country to join unspecified underground groups.

The FBI said that it responded by interviewing Tsarnaev and family members, but found no terrorism activity.

No evidence has emerged since to link Tsarnaev to militant groups in Russia's Caucasus. And on Sunday the Caucasus Emirate, which Russia and the U.S. consider a terrorist organization, denied involvement in the Boston attack.

But a trip Tsarnaev made back to Russia in January, 2012, has raised questions.

His father said his son stayed with him in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, where the family lived briefly before moving to the United States a decade ago. The father had only recently returned.

Under pressure, Border Patrol now counts getaways

CAMPO, Calif. (AP)—Richard Gordon is one of the Border Patrol's best at spotting the smallest human traces in pursuit of people who enter the U.S. illegally from Mexico: dusty footprints, torn cobwebs, broken twigs, overturned pebbles.

It's a skill he has sharpened over the last 16 years in the craggy, shrub-covered mountains east of San Diego and one that is taking on new importance as gauging border security has emerged as a potential stumbling block to an overhaul of the U.S. immigration system.

With lawmakers demanding more measures of border security and assurances that massive spending increases on enforcement yield results, Gordon's skill, known as "sign-cutting," will likely get greater focus because it is the Border Patrol's dominant technique to count those who escape capture.

It's not the new cameras, sensors and airborne radars.

"You can have all the technology but we're still back to sign-cutting," said Gordon, 46, who works in the same sparsely populated area where he grew up hunting deer and quail. "It's tried, and it's true, and it works."

There's no question it works to find hikers, but its effectiveness at tracking how many escape agents' grasp is more open to debate.

A recent Government Accountability Office report cites Border Patrol data from fiscal 2011, the latest available, that 61 percent of estimated illegal crossings on the southern border resulted in capture, 23 percent turn back to Mexico and 16 percent got away.

Of the 85,467 who got away, 70,980 (83 percent) were counted by sign-cutting, with nearly all the rest from cameras and plain sightings.

Despite such precise tallies, Border Patrol Chief Mike Fisher said sign-cutting "is not an exact science." Even the most skilled trackers make educated guesses and, as the GAO noted, counting has been inconsistent.

"We get better every day," but the agency doesn't know with pinpoint accuracy the number of border crossers and what happened to them, said Fisher, who issued a directive in September to ensure that the more than 21,000 agents under his command are consistent in how they count.

The implications for immigration reform are potentially significant as lawmakers seek assurances that the border is secure before millions are allowed to legally remain in the country.

The Border Patrol has been judged almost solely by its number of arrests, which are hovering near 40-year lows. Apprehension figures are unquestionably accurate but have limited value in assessing border security.

A Senate bill introduced last week sets a goal that 90 percent of illegal crossings from Mexico in high-traffic areas result in arrest or a turn-back. One key possible point of contention is how much weight to give to turnarounds, which are mainly tallied by plain sightings.

The Border Patrol takes credit for them, but others note they may succeed on a second try after waiting a few hours or trying another location.

"The fact that they weren't apprehended isn't necessarily a bad thing," Fisher said in an interview. "The fact that they didn't continue their entry is, overarching from our strategy, what we're trying to prevent."

Prayer and waiting in Texas town that's rocked by blast

WEST, Texas (AP)—The First Baptist Church in the tiny Texas town where a fertilizer plant exploded is still off-limits, so the Rev. John Crowder put folding chairs in a hay pasture and improvised a pulpit on a truck flatbed. At the elementary school, an official carted extra desks and chairs into the only public school campus that's left.

This was Sunday in West. Four days after the blast that killed 14 people and injured 200 others, residents prayed for comfort and got ready for the week ahead, some of them still waiting to find out when—or if—they will be able to go back home.

"We have lost our friends and neighbors. We lost the safety and comfort of our homes," said Crowder, raising his voice over the whirr of helicopters surveying the nearby rubble from overhead. "But as scary as this is, we don't have to be afraid."

The explosion at the West Fertilizer Co. rocketed shrapnel across several blocks and left what assistant state fire marshal Kelly Kirstner described Sunday as "a large crater." A section of the flat farming town near the crater, including Crowder's church, is still behind barricades.

One school campus was obliterated, and on the eve of 1,500 students returning to class for the first time since Wednesday's blast, Superintendent Marty Crawford said the high school and middle school could also be razed.

Asia

China rushes relief after Sichuan quake kills 186

LUSHAN, China (AP)—Luo Shiqiang sat near chunks of concrete, bricks and a ripped orange sofa and told how his grandfather was just returning from feeding chickens when their house collapsed and crushed him to death in this weekend's powerful earthquake in southwestern China.

"We lost everything in such a short time," the 20-year-old college student said Sunday. He said his cousin also was injured in the collapse, but that other members of his family were spared because they were out working in the fields of hard-hit Longmen village in Lushan county.

Saturday's earthquake in Sichuan province killed at least 186 people, injured more than 11,000 and left nearly two dozen missing, mostly in the rural communities around Ya'an city, along the same fault line where a devastating quake to the north killed more than 90,000 people in Sichuan and neighboring areas five years ago in one of China's worst natural disasters.

The Lushan and Baoxing counties hardest-hit on Saturday had escaped the worst of the damage in the 2008 quake, and residents there said they benefited little from the region's rebuilding after the disaster, with no special reinforcements made or new evacuation procedures introduced in their remote communities.

Luo said he wished more had been done to make his community's buildings quake-resistant. "Maybe the country's leaders really wanted to help us, but when it comes to the lower levels the officials don't carry it out," he said.

AP

A man squats near the collapsed remains of a building destroyed by Saturday's earthquake in Lushan county in southwestern China's Sichuan province, Monday, April 22, 2013.

Relief teams flew in helicopters and dynamited through landslides Sunday to reach some of the most isolated communities, where rescuers in orange overalls led sniffer dogs through piles of brick, concrete and wood debris to search for survivors.

Many residents complained that although emergency teams were quick to carry away bodies and search for survivors, they had so far done little to distribute aid. "No water, no shelter," read a hand-written sign held up by children on a roadside in Longmen.

"I was working in the field when I heard the explosions of the earthquake, and I turned around and saw my house simply flatten in front of me," said Fu Qiuyue, a 70-year-old rapeseed farmer in Longmen.

Fu sat with her husband, Ren Dehua, in a makeshift shelter of logs and a plastic sheet on a patch of grass near where a helicopter had parked to reach their community of terraced grain and vegetable fields. She said the collapse of the house had crushed eight pigs to death. "It was the scariest sound I have ever heard," she said.

The quake—measured by China's earthquake administration at magnitude 7.0 and by the U.S. Geological Survey at 6.6—struck shortly after 8 a.m. on Saturday. Tens of thousands of people moved into tents or cars, unable to return home or too afraid to go back as aftershocks continued to jolt the region.

The quake killed at least 186 people, left 21 missing and injured 11,393, the official Xinhua News Agency quoted the provincial emergency command center as saying.

As in most natural disasters, the government mobilized thousands of soldiers and others, sending excavators and other heavy machinery as well as tents, blankets and other emergency supplies. Two soldiers died after their vehicle slid off a road and rolled down a cliff, state media reported.

The Chinese Red Cross said it had deployed relief teams with supplies of food, water, medicine and rescue equipment to the disaster areas.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Sunday that the U.N. stood ready "to provide assistance and to mobilize any international support that may be needed," according to a statement released by the U.N. spokesperson.

In his condolence message, Ban said he "is deeply saddened by the loss of life, injuries and destruction" caused by the earthquake and aftershocks that struck Sichuan province.

Lushan, where the quake struck, lies where the fertile Sichuan plain meets foothills that eventually rise to the Tibetan plateau and sits atop the Longmenshan fault, where the 2008 quake struck.

The seat of Lushan county has been turned into a large refugee camp, with tents set up on open spaces, and volunteers doling out noodles and boxed meals to survivors from stalls and the backs of vans.

A large van with a convertible side served as a mobile bank with an ATM, military medical trucks provided X-rays for people with minor injuries, and military doctors administered basic first aid, applying iodine solution to cuts and examining bruises.

Condition of Indian girl who was raped improves

NEW DELHI (AP)—The condition of a 5-year-old girl who was raped, tortured and then left alone in a locked room for two days has improved, a doctor said, as protests continued in India's capital over the authorities' handling of the case.

The girl was in critical condition when she was transferred Thursday from a local hospital to the largest government-run hospital in the country. But D.K. Sharma, medical superintendent of the state-run hospital in New Delhi where the girl was being treated, said Sunday that she was responding well to treatment and that her condition had stabilized.

Police say the girl went missing April 15 and was found two days later by neighbors who heard her crying in a locked room in the same New Delhi building where she lives with her family. The girl was alone when she was found, having been left for dead by the man following the brutal attack, police say.

A 24-year-old man was arrested Saturday in the eastern state of Bihar, about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from New Delhi. After being flown to New Delhi, he was in custody Sunday and was being questioned, police said.

The attack came four months after the fatal gang rape of a woman on a New Delhi bus sparked outrage across India about the treatment of women in the country.

For the second consecutive day, hundreds of people protested Sunday outside police headquarters in the capital, angry over allegations that police had ignored complaints by the girl's parents that she was missing.

About 100 supporters of the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party protested outside the home of the chief of the ruling Congress Party, Sonia Gandhi, demanding that the government ensure the safety and security of women and girls in the city.

The protesters also demanded that the Delhi police chief be removed from office and that police officials accused of failing to act on the parents' complaint be dismissed.

Stranded Chinese boat removed from Philippine reef

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Chinese fishing boat found carrying thousands of kilos (pounds) of scaly anteater meat has been removed from a Philippine marine sanctuary where it run aground last week, a coast guard spokesman said Saturday. The F/V *Min Long Yu* was towed Saturday to the Palawan provincial capital of Puerto Princesa southwest of Manila, a day after it was extricated from the Tubbataha National Marine Park, Lt. Cmdr. Armand Balilo said.

The boat's 12 Chinese crewmen have been in custody since they struck the UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site on April 8 and charged with poaching.

Balilo said the boat will be held in custody by the coast guard and will be checked again for any hidden compartments.

Authorities found no fish or any contraband on board during an initial inspection when they boarded the boat for the first time a day after it struck the reef.

During closer inspection days later, coast guard officers discovered 400 boxes, each containing 25-30 kilograms (55-66 pounds) of frozen pangolins, or scaly anteaters, with their scales already removed.

Wildlife officials are still trying to determine which of the four Asian pangolin species the meat comes from. The International Union of Conservation of Nature lists two as endangered: the Sunda, or Malayan, pangolin, and the Chinese pangolin. Two others, including the Philippine pangolin endemic to Palawan, are classified as near threatened.

The animals are protected in many Asian nations. Despite an international trade ban in effect since 2002, trade continues illicitly. The meat and scales of the pangolin are believed to cure various ailments.

Balilo said the Tubbataha Management Office, which oversees the marine park, will examine the extent of reef damage to determine the amount of fines to be imposed on the Chinese boat owners.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China criticizes US for its human rights record

BEIJING (AP)—China slammed the human rights record of the United States in response to Washington's report on rights around the world, saying that U.S. military operations have infringed on rights abroad and that political donations at home have thwarted the country's democracy. The report released Sunday in China—which defines human rights primarily in terms of improving living conditions for its 1.3 billion people- also cited gun violence in the U.S. among its examples of human rights violations, saying it was a serious threat to the lives and safety of America's citizens. The Human Rights Record of the United States in 2012 said the U.S. government continues to strengthen the monitoring of its people and that political donations to election campaigns have undue influence on U.S. policy.

Taliban attacks kill 9 people in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Insurgents killed six police officers at a checkpoint and a suicide bomber killed three civilians at a shopping bazaar in separate attacks Sunday in eastern Afghanistan, while an independent security group warned 2013 is on track to be one of the most violent years of the war. April already has been the deadliest month this year for security forces and Afghan and foreign civilians as the U.S. and other countries prepare to end their combat mission by the end of next year. According to an Associated Press tally, 222 people have been killed in violence around the nation this month, including Sunday's nine fatalities. The Taliban ambushed the checkpoint in the Dayak district of Ghazni province, killing six police officers, wounding one and leaving one missing, said Col. Mohammad Hussain, deputy provincial police chief. The checkpoint was manned by Afghan local police, forces recruited at the village level that are nominally under the control of the Afghan Interior Ministry.

World

Officials: At least 185 killed in Nigeria attack

AP

In this image shot with a mobile phone, a man tries to cool down a man burned during fighting in Baga, Nigeria, on Sunday, April 21, 2013.

BAGA, Nigeria (AP)—Fighting between Nigeria's military and Islamic extremists killed at least 185 people in a fishing community in the nation's far northeast, officials said Sunday, an attack that saw insurgents fire rocket-propelled grenades and soldiers spray machine-gun fire into neighborhoods filled with civilians.

The fighting in Baga began Friday and lasted for hours, sending people fleeing into the arid scrublands surrounding the community on Lake Chad. By Sunday, when government officials finally felt safe enough to see the destruction, homes, businesses and vehicles were burned throughout the area.

The assault marks a significant escalation in the long-running insurgency Nigeria faces in its predominantly Muslim north, with Boko Haram extremists mounting a coordinated assault on soldiers using military-grade weaponry. The killings also mark one of the deadliest incidents ever involving Boko Haram.

Authorities had found and buried at least 185 bodies as of Sunday afternoon, said Lawan Kole, a local government official in Baga. He spoke haltingly to Borno state Gov. Kashim Shettima in the Kanuri language of Nigeria's northeast, surrounded by still-frightened villagers.

Officials could not offer a breakdown of civilian casualties versus those of soldiers and extremist fighters. Many of the bodies had been burned beyond recognition in fires that razed whole sections of the town, residents said. Those killed were buried as soon as possible, following local Muslim tradition.

Brig. Gen. Austin Edokpaye, also on the visit, did not dispute the casualty figures. Edokpaye said Boko Haram extremists used heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in the assault, which began after soldiers surrounded a mosque they believed housed members of the radical Islamic extremist network Boko Haram. Extremists earlier had killed a military officer, the general said.

Edokpaye said extremists used civilians as human shields during the fighting—implying that soldiers opened fire in neighborhoods where they knew civilians lived.

"When we reinforced and returned to the scene the terrorists came out with heavy firepower, including (rocket-propelled grenades), which usually has a conflagration effect," the general said. However, local residents who spoke to an Associated Press journalist who accompanied the state officials said soldiers purposefully set the fires during the attack. Violence by security forces in the northeast targeting civilians has been widely documented by journalists and human rights activists. A similar raid in Maiduguri, Borno state's capital, in October after extremists killed a military officer saw soldiers kill at least 30 civilians and set fires across a neighborhood.

Kerry pushes Turkey-Israel rapprochement

ISTANBUL (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday urged Turkey to speed up and cement an American-brokered rapprochement with Israel, and he explored with Palestinian officials new ways to relaunch Mideast peace efforts.

Kerry tried to advance those second-term foreign policy priorities for President Barack Obama in meetings with Turkey's foreign minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, and the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas.

Kerry also said he had made it clear to the Turks that a planned trip to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan after his May 16 visit to the White House "would be better delayed and that it shouldn't take place at this point in time.

Both Israel and Abbas, whose Palestinian Authority is based in the West Bank, oppose the Gaza visit.

"We would like to see the parties begin with as little outside distraction as possible. So our sense is that it would be more helpful to wait for the right circumstances," said Kerry, who did not meet with Erdogan on this stop in Turkey.

On a trip to Israel last month, Obama secured a pledge from Turkish and Israeli leaders to normalize ties that broke down after a 2010 Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla that killed eight Turks and a Turkish-American.

But the rapprochement has been slow, fueling concerns that Turkey may be backsliding on its commitment.

Israeli and Turkish negotiators plan to meet this coming week to discuss Turkey's demand for compensation for victims of the flotilla.

U.S. officials hope the discussions will jumpstart the process of restoring full diplomatic relations and exchanging ambassadors between two countries that Washington sees as vital strategic partners in the volatile Middle East.

The raid sparked throughout outrage in Muslim-majority Turkey, making it politically difficult for Erdogan to bend to persistent U.S. appeals to improve relations with Israel.

In March, Obama extracted an apology for the raid from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that broke the stalemate.

Kerry said he understood the anger and frustration of those Turks who lost friends and family in the raid. The former Massachusetts senator said last week's Boston Marathon bombings made him acutely aware of the emotions involved.

"It affects the community, it affects the country. But going forward, you know, we have to find the best way to bring people together and undo these tensions and undo these stereotypes and try to make peace," he said.

Kerry said he had a "prolonged and constructive" discussion with Davutoglu, about "the importance of completing the task with respect to the renewal of relations between Turkey and Israel."

Kerry added that he believed Erdogan and Davutoglu "are deeply committed to fulfilling all of the obligations of that understanding."

U.S. officials are keen to see substantive process by the time Erdogan comes to Washington.

"We would like to see us get to a point where we are moving on improving the situation in Gaza, which was part of the agreement ... and where we are also completing the tasks of moving to full diplomatic relations between the countries, which would be very beneficial to everyone," he said.

With Abbas, Kerry discussed ways to improve the Palestinians' living conditions as a confidence-building measure to improve the atmosphere for a resumption of peace talks with Israel.

Syrian opposition calls on Hezbollah to stay out

BEIRUT (AP)—The Syrian opposition called on Hezbollah to withdraw its fighters from the country, as activists said regime troops supported by gunmen linked to the Lebanese Shiite militant group battled rebels Sunday for control of a string of villages near the Lebanon-Syria border.

Outside the capital, Damascus, activists said they had documented the names of 80 people killed in a government assault on the area over the past five days.

The Syrian National Coalition—the main Western-backed opposition group—warned that Hezbollah involvement in Syria's civil war could lead to greater risks in the area, and urged the Lebanese government to "adopt the necessary measures to stop the aggression of Hezbollah" and to control the border to "protect civilians in the area."

The statement, posted on the Coalition's Facebook page, coincided with a surge in fighting around the contested town of Qusair in Syria's Homs province near the frontier with Lebanon.

Over the past two weeks, the Syrian military, supported by a Hezbollah-backed militia, has pushed to regain control of the border area. The region is strategic because it links Damascus with the Mediterranean coastal enclave that is the heartland of President Bashar Assad's Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam.

The fighting also points to the sectarian nature of the Syrian conflict, which pits a government dominated by the president's Alawite minority against a primarily Sunni Muslim rebellion, and underscores widely held fears that the civil war could drag in neighboring states. The pro-regime gunmen are members of the Popular Committees, which were set up last year in Syria with Hezbollah's backing to protect Syrian villages inhabited by Lebanese Shiites, although rebels accuse the fighters of attacking opposition villages in the area and fighting alongside government forces.

While Hezbollah confirms backing the Popular Committees, it denies taking part in Syria's civil war.

The fighting along the border region has flared in recent weeks, and on Saturday government forces captured the villages of Radwaniyeh and Tel al-Nabi Mando. On Sunday, regime forces shelled the villages of Abu Houri, Saqarigh, Nahriyeh and Ein al-Tanour in the Qusair region, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights activist group. It said at least four rebels were killed in the fighting.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pentagon chief stresses Israel's right to hit Iran

JERUSALEM (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel held out hope Sunday for a nonmilitary way to ending the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran, but he also emphasized Washington's willingness to let Israel decide whether and when it might strike Tehran in self-defense. Hagel, on his first visit to Israel as Pentagon chief, seemed intent on burying the image that Republican critics painted of him as insufficiently supportive of the Jewish state. That portrayal was central to a failed campaign to derail Hagel's Senate confirmation in February. In an interview with reporters on his flight from Washington, Hagel said the United States and Israel see "exactly the same" threat from Iran, which he described as a toxic combination of nuclear ambition and support for terrorism.

Paraguayans elect tobacco magnate as president

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)—Paraguayans elected a tobacco magnate as their new leader Sunday, returning the conservative Colorado Party to the presidency that it held for 61 years before former Roman Catholic bishop Fernando Lugo won the office in 2008. Horacio Cartes won a five-year term with 46 percent of the vote over 37 percent for Efrain Alegre of the Radical Liberal party, the Electoral Court announced after most votes were counted. Five other candidates trailed far behind. "I'll need help from all the Paraguayans to govern in the next five years. Poverty, the lack of jobs for young people and international issues await us," Cartes said Sunday night.

Focus

AP

This combination of undated photos shows, from left, Martin Richard, 8, Krystle Campbell, 29, and Lingzi Lu, a Boston University graduate student. Richard, Campbell and Lu were killed in the explosions at the finish line of the Boston Marathon Monday, April 15, 2013, in Boston.

Stories of the dead and injured in Boston bombing

The twin bombs at the Boston Marathon killed three people and wounded more than 170 on Monday. Here are the stories of those killed and some of the injured.

LU LINGZI: A LONG WAY FROM HOME

She was a food fan, eager for culinary discoveries. In her last blog update the morning before the Boston Marathon blasts, the Chinese graduate student identified as the attack's third victim posted a photo of bread chunks and fruit.

"My wonderful breakfast," Boston University statistics student Lu Lingzi wrote.

Lingzi, in her early 20s, often shared photos of her home-prepared meals online—a blueberry-covered waffle one day, spinach sacchettini with zucchini on another. In September, she showed off her first two-dish meal—stir-fried broccoli and scrambled eggs with tomatoes, often cooked by Chinese students learning how to live on their own abroad.

Tasso Kaper, the chair of BU's mathematics department, says Lu loved flowers and the springtime. She had only one course left in order to graduate.

She was standing with two friends when the bombs went off. One was seriously injured.

THE RICHARDS: A FAMILY INJURED, IN MOURNING

Neighbors and friends remembered 8-year-old bombing victim Martin Richard as a vivacious boy who loved to run, climb and play sports like soccer, basketball and baseball.

The boy's father, Bill Richard, released a statement thanking family, friends and strangers for their support following his son's death Monday. Richard's wife, Denise, and the couple's 6-year-old daughter, Jane, also suffered significant injuries in the blasts.

The family was watching Monday's race and had gone to get ice cream before returning to the area near the finish line before the blasts.

Denise Richard works as a librarian at the Neighborhood House Charter School, where Martin was a third-grader and Jane attends first grade. Counselors were being made available to staff and students.

"I just can't get a handle on it," family friend Jack Cunningham said of the boy's death. "In an instant, life changes."

KRYSTLE CAMPBELL: CHEERING ON FRIENDS

Krystle Campbell was a 29-year-old restaurant manager from Medford. Her father, 56-year-old William Campbell, described her as "just a very caring, very loving person, and was daddy's little girl."

Campbell had gone to the race with her best friend Karen, whose boyfriend was running in the race, her father said.

"They wanted to take a photograph of him crossing the finish line, but the explosion went off and they were right there," he said. "It's pretty devastating."

The friend suffered a severe leg injury.

Krystle's grandmother told multiple media outlets that the family was initially told Campbell was alive because of a name mix-up. When her father arrived at Massachusetts General Hospital, however, he learned that his daughter had died.

Krystle's grandmother, Lillian Campbell, said somewhere on the way to the hospital, their names got mixed up.

Lillian Campbell said her son was "devastated" when he found out the truth and almost passed out.

PATRICK AND JESSICA DOWNES: NEWLYWEDS

Patrick and Jessica Downes married in August. According to an email sent to friends, Patrick had surgery Wednesday and is out of intensive care, while Jessica was in surgery. Both lost their left leg below the knee, and Jessica was in danger of losing her remaining foot.

Friends who set up a page at GiveForward.com to raise money for the couple's expenses said they first started dating in 2006.

Patrick graduated from Boston College and was so well-behaved in high school that he was nicknamed "Jesus." They described him as the "ultimate Boston boy."

"He has that accent that makes it impossible to tell if he's saying `parking' or `packing,' he's no more than two degrees of separation from Whitey Bulger (or so he claims), and he cried his eyes out when the Sox finally won the World Series," the site said.

Jessica, described as a sassy California girl, is a nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"She has the spirit of a lion," the site said.

A spokesman for GiveForward.com said the page got so many hits Wednesday that it crashed.

AARON HERN: A TOUGH COOKIE

Eleven-year-old Aaron Hern was there with his father, Alan, and little sister, Abby, to cheer on his mother, Katherine, in her first Boston Marathon when the bomb went off. After initially becoming separated, Alan found his son lying injured on the ground with leg wounds.

"He was conscious, he talked to me and said, `My leg really hurts, daddy,' but he was being pretty brave," Alan Hern told KGO-TV.

The family is from Martinez, Calif., and Alan Hern is the Alhambra High School varsity football coach, KGO reported.

Aaron remained in critical condition at Boston Children's Hospital on Wednesday and underwent three to four hours of surgery on his leg, the hospital said.

His mother said in a note posted online by Kiwanis Club of Martinez that Aaron was trying harder and harder to communicate through a touchpad. She said it was stressful because he was starting to remember everything and getting upset.

The mother of Aaron's best friend, Katherine Chapman, told The San Francisco Chronicle that Aaron was an outgoing and fun-loving kid.

"A tough cookie, an athlete and a scholar. He gets good grades and participates in every sport and is good at everything he does. He's one of those kids that everybody loves," she said.

His 12th birthday is May 1.

JEFF BAUMAN JR.: LOST BOTH LEGS

Jeff Bauman Jr., a man pictured in an Associated Press photo from immediately after the blast, lost both his legs as cheered his girlfriend on in the race. He survived the trauma after people rushed him away from the explosion site in a wheelchair.

Rescuers took the 27-year-old victim to Boston Medical Center, but doctors had to amputate his legs because of extensive vascular and bone damage, a Facebook post from his father said Tuesday.

"Unfortunately my son was just in the wrong place at the wrong time," the elder Jeff Bauman wrote.

The son also had to have more surgery later because of fluid in his abdomen. His condition improved later.

"I just can't explain what's wrong with people today to do this to people," the father wrote. "I'm really starting to lose faith in our country."

BRITTANY LORING: AN AMBITIOUS STUDENT

Brittany Loring was spending Monday, her 29th birthday, cheering on her friend in the Boston Marathon. A day later, she lay in critical condition with injuries to her head, leg and fingers.

"We've had so many calls. Everybody's just upset over it," grandmother Philomena Loring told the Lowell Sun. "I put her on the prayer line at my church."

Loring is simultaneously pursuing degrees in law and business administration at Boston College. She's also a runner, finishing 80th in the Boston College MBA 5K on April 6.

HEATHER ABBOTT: BEST FRIEND TURNED, FOUND HER GONE

Heather Abbott, of Newport, R.I., was entering a bar with friends as the bomb went off. Her best friend, Jason Geremia, told WJAR-TV that everyone ran out the back. Once he got there, he realized Abbott wasn't with him. He turned to go back when he saw a bouncer carrying her down the stairs.

"I said, `Give her to me. Give her to me.' And he was like, `Do you know her?' I said, `Yes, yes. That's my best friend.' I said, `Give her to me.' He said, `No, no, no. Look at her leg.' It was very tough to see that."

Her leg was severely injured. Another friend took off his belt, and they used it as a tourniquet.

Geremia spent much of Monday and Tuesday at the hospital, along with Abbott's parents, who are from Lincoln, R.I.

"It's very, very hard to see her," Geremia said.

JARROD CLOWERY: `GET INTO THE STREET'

Jarrod Clowery and his friends were cheering on spectators when he heard the first explosion.

"I got this feeling that we need to get into the street," Clowery said.

Clowery, 35, a carpenter, hopped over one of the metal barricades that separates spectators on the sidewalk from runners on the course when the second blast went off behind him.

"Because I was elevated on the railing I think I avoided major, major injury," Clowery said, adding that his friends were injured much more severely.

Clowery said his hearing was diminished by about 85 percent. He has shrapnel embedded in the back of his leg and suffered flash burns.

"The Lord was watching over me, somebody was watching over me," Clowery said. "And I feel very blessed."

JOHN ODOM: CHEERING HIS DAUGHTER

John Odom's daughter, Nicole Reis, was running the marathon as a member of the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation Marathon team, and he was there to support her. Her husband, Matt Reis, is the goalie for the Major League Soccer team the New England Revolution.

Odom was around 10 feet away from the first bomb when it went off, Matt Reis told reporters at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough on Wednesday, where he visited to thank teammates for their support. Odom remained in critical condition and had undergone three surgeries in about 40 hours, he said.

"He hasn't really stabilized yet, and we're still hoping," he said. "He is progressing a little bit, but we're talking about footsteps here and not very big strides."

Overdrive

ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT
Trademark Metals Recycling yard in south Orlando, Florida has a machine that can pulverize an entire car in seven seconds.

From clunker to recyclable scrap in seconds

By KEVIN SPEAR
ORLANDO SENTINEL

After a car's "check engine" light winks on for the last time, there's a place where the expired vehicle can be reduced to fist-sized chunks of unrecognizable metal in less time than it takes to read this sentence.

The action end of this metal-salvaging operation sounds like a mechanical dog chewing an iron bone, steams with the heat of metal being ripped apart, and suggests a post-apocalyptic scene. Now and then a tire explodes, with the boom muffled by heavy shielding.

Still, there's an efficient elegance in the way sport utility vehicles, minivans, sedans and other vehicles are treated at the end of their lives, on the cusp of the Earth-friendly reincarnation process known as recycling.

And the stomach of the recycling business growls with a worldwide appetite for metal, according to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries.

The vehicle shredder at Trademark Metals Recycling LLC—unlike a paper shredder that relies on blades to slice documents into ribbons—swings an array of 225-pound hammers to pulverize car doors, engines and frames, which emerge as palm-sized confetti. Operators call it the "hammer mill."

"It will shred a car or even a school bus in about 7 seconds," said Brian Hazlewood, the salvage yard's general manager.

A piece of shredded car at Trademark Metals Recycling yard in south Orlando, Florida is displayed, April 9, 2013.
ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

At the recycling industry's annual meeting this week in Orlando, Fla., topics included ways to foil metal theft; how to handle used electronic products; and tips for detecting gauges, cameras and other equipment that emit radiation. As with other heavy industries, recyclers want to do their work better, faster, cheaper and safer.

Plastic, paper, aluminum, copper, lead, zinc and tires are prized for recycling, but steel is the real plum. Last year, more than 75 million tons were processed nationwide by recyclers, which are competitive gatherers of the metal.

At Trademark Metals Recycling, the yard's three-story-high pile of iron and steel is an ever-changing sculpture of our industrialized society's discards: sewer pipe, store shelves, water heaters, stoves, drums, awnings, stairways and cars of all varieties.

The recycling company is owned by Nucor Corp., whose main business is melting scrap metal.

"Scrap is not waste," said Brenda Anderson, Trademark's environmental manager in Florida. "It's our business."

Hazlewood said the salvage yard will buy as little as a few pounds of steel from "Joe the Junkman" peddlers—or cars by the dozens from auto-parts companies that first strip usable components from the wrecks or junkers.

A bare-bones car will fetch as little as $100, while a mostly intact one may bring $500.

Hazlewood's shredding machine is not large, compared with some others. But it still seems monstrous. Its 3,000-horsepower motor consumes so much electricity that operations are shut down every day at noon, when the daily demand for—and price of—electricity rises.

At the heart of the shredder is a spinning, 30,000-pound drum fitted with the 225-pound hammers.

When cars, water heaters or other steel scrap tumble into the maw of the machine, the violence creates so much heat that water must be sprayed into the mass of shredding metal to snuff out what would otherwise become a roaring fire.

The mess of material that emerges is separated by a high-velocity blower and magnets. Foam, insulation, rubber, plastic and glass stream down one conveyor belt—for further processing elsewhere—while grey, paintless wads of steel fall clinking from another conveyor belt onto a pile of scrap worth approximately $350 a ton. It's hauled by train to a Nucor mill in South Carolina.

Hazlewood said that a decade ago, Florida had eight shredders. Now the 20th is being built.

"It's a very competitive business."

UNDER THE HOOD

DIY auto repair has its risks

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: Really? Struts? Dangerous even in a shop! We should encourage this? Quick struts are a good choice but still a major undertaking, not for any amateur.

You show a lot of knowledge but have maybe come up short on wisdom. Do-it-yourself days are over; get used to it.

Also, quoting prices from the Internet gives the impression that the dealer and repair shops are ripping people off. You know this is not true.—Johnny

ANSWER: I should add that Johnny is an ASE master technician and shop owner who certainly knows his stuff. He brings up several points about my recent column that are well worth addressing.

As a mechanic-turned-auto teacher, I've come to believe there's both an art and a science to fixing automobiles. The art part involves ever-evolving hands-on experience in such things as how hard you can hit, twist or pry something without breaking it; learning the difference in sound between a connecting-rod rattle and a cracked flex plate; distinguishing a shudder from a shimmy; drilling out a broken stud without destroying the surrounding part; and knowing when a job is over your head or has a high chance of going sour.

The science part requires training in electronics, physics, vehicle components and systems, information gathering, and creating/implementing productive diagnostic strategies and repair validations. To a point, this second category can be gleaned from books or the Web, unlike the pre-requisite skinned knuckles and burnt forearms of the first.

Johnny is right: Renewing struts is not a job for an amateur. But there are many folks out there who fall between those who have trouble screwing on a gas cap and a professional technician. I spend a lot of time in Alaska. In the Great Land, you learn to take care of business because the nearest auto repair shop isn't, um, nearby. Probably 8 of 10 neighbors there could pull off this job without breaking sweat or uttering more than a few choice words.

Thinking about tackling a strut replacement? Here are some things to consider: If you need to buy the tools to do this, or yours aren't yet sufficiently greasy, this job isn't for you. Will you safely support the vehicle on jack stands rather than just a floor jack, and wear eye protection when appropriate? Is there someone experienced you can call should things go awry? Do you fully understand the physics and safety concerns involved in removing this nut versus that one? (For example, the large nut atop a strut should never be removed without a spring compressor in place.) Do you understand the importance of cleaning, then tightening fasteners with a torque wrench to specifications? Do you have a Plan B if something breaks and you need to drive the car to work tomorrow morning?

Auto parts can certainly be purchased at prices less than those charged in a repair shop. A shop's parts markup includes the time they eat to renew a defective part—ever do a Cadillac or Lexus V-8 starter twice, because the remanufactured part failed during the warranty period? It also includes choosing the most appropriate part—say, out of six choices of brake pad composition, and the Chinese manufactured brake rotors versus the far more expensive OEM version. Is there a service bulletin or redesigned part available that better fixes this pattern failure issue? And electrical/electronic parts are typically not returnable. It's nice when someone else becomes stuck with an expensive part that was vaguely catalogued or didn't fix the problem.

Cars have changed a lot and require a much more skillful, professional approach to virtually all service needs. But I believe there are still many ways an owner or home mechanic can participate in servicing a vehicle, if homework is done and limitations are realized.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Reese Witherspoon 'deeply embarrassed' after arrest

By JONATHAN DREW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA (AP)—Reese Witherspoon is "deeply embarrassed" about what she said to police officers during her husband's arrest in Atlanta.

The Oscar-winning actress released a statement late Sunday apologizing for her behavior to police that began when her husband, Hollywood agent Jim Toth, was arrested early Friday for driving under the influence of alcohol.

"I clearly had one drink too many and I am deeply embarrassed about the things I said," Witherspoon said. "It was definitely a scary situation and I was frightened for my husband, but that is no excuse. I was disrespectful to the officer who was just doing his job. I have nothing but respect for the police and I'm very sorry for my behavior."

Witherspoon said she can't comment further "out of respect" for the pending case, and her publicist, Meredith O'Sullivan Wasson, offered no other details.

The 37-year-old actress was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct after a state trooper said she wouldn't stay in the car while Toth was given a field sobriety test. She was released from jail after the arrest and was in New York on Sunday night for the premiere of her new film, "Mud."

News of the arrest broke shortly before Witherspoon arrived on the "Mud" red carpet. She posed for cameras on the red carpet but did not stop to talk to reporters.

"I can't say anything because I don't know," said director Jeff Nichols. "I literally — the first guy on the press line to say something was the first time I heard about it, so I gotta go figure it out."

Matthew McConaughey, who plays the lead role in "Mud" and is represented by Toth, said "I'm not going to comment on that because it's too fresh."

According to the arrest report, the trooper noticed the car driven by Witherspoon's husband wasn't staying in its lane early Friday morning, so he initiated a traffic stop. He reported that Toth had droopy eyelids and watery, bloodshot eyes, and his breath smelled strongly of alcohol.

Toth told the trooper he'd had a drink, which Witherspoon said was consumed at a restaurant two hours before the traffic stop, the trooper wrote.

AP

This combination of undated photo provided by the City of Atlanta Department of Corrections shows Reese Witherspoon, left, her husband James Toth.

Before the field sobriety test began, Witherspoon got out of the car, was told to get back in and obeyed, the report said. After the "Walk the Line" star got out a second time, the trooper said he warned her that she would be arrested if she left the car again.

As the test continued, "Mrs. Witherspoon began to hang out the window and say that she did not believe that I was a real police officer. I told Mrs. Witherspoon to sit on her butt and be quiet," Trooper First Class J. Pyland wrote.

Toth, 42, was then placed under arrest. He was charged with driving under the influence and failure to maintain the lane.

At that point, the arrest report says, Witherspoon got out and asked the trooper what was going on. After being told to return to the car, she "stated that she was a 'US Citizen' and that she was allowed to 'stand on American ground,'" the report says.

The trooper then began to arrest Witherspoon. The report says Witherspoon was resistant at first but was calmed down by her husband. Toth and Witherspoon were then taken to jail.

For Olga Kurylenko, life after Bond just gets better

By BARRY KOLTNOW
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

SANTA ANA, Calif.—Olga Kurylenko is racking up the frequent flier miles these days.

With two new movies in theaters—director Terrence Malick's "To The Wonder" and the Tom Cruise post-apocalyptic thriller "Oblivion"—the Ukrainian-born, Parisian-trained and London-based actress has been flying from one premiere to another.

In fact, when the former Bond girl ("Quantum of Solace") picked up the phone to call the *Orange County Register*, she was on her way to the airport after attending the Moscow premiere of "Oblivion." From there, she was headed to premieres in Taipei, Vienna, London, Dublin, Buenos Aries, Rio de Janeiro and Toronto.

Judging by her travel schedule, the one-time model apparently has overcome the typecasting and subsequent career disappearance that follows many actresses who appear opposite 007.

In "To The Wonder," Kurylenko plays a French woman who meets and falls in love with an American (Ben Affleck) vacationing in Paris. The couple and her young daughter move into the man's Oklahoma home, where the glow of new romance begins to dim.

The 33-year-old actress plays an endangered crew member aboard a space vehicle who is rescued by Cruise in the futuristic "Oblivion." The science fiction movie, directed by Joseph Kosinski and based on his unpublished graphic novel, takes place years after an invasion of Earth by an alien race bent on stripping the planet of its natural resources.

Raised by her mother and grandmother, Kurylenko was discovered at 14 on a Moscow subway by a modeling agent who was so intrigued by the tall teen (she now stands 5-foot-9) that he handed her mother his business card. The youngster signed a contract with a modeling agency the next day, and moved to Paris when she was 16. Two years later, she was on the covers of Vogue, Glamour and Elle. She speaks five languages, and her first English-speaking movie role was in the 2007 film "Hitman." Last year, Kurylenko appeared opposite Colin Farrell in "Seven Psychopaths," and she recently completed her second season on the Starz cable series "Magic City," in which she plays Vera Evans.

Q. I've already seen photos of you and Tom Cruise posing together on the red carpet in Moscow just an hour ago. It must have been nice to be back in Mother Russia?

A. Not in this little dress (laughs). It was very cold.

Q. Well, you and Tom seemed to work well together. How was he on the set?

A. Tom is so professional and generous. He takes cares of everybody on the set. You feel like you're in good hands because he's on top of everything. It's a pleasure to work with someone who is so invested in everything he does. He never left the set to sit alone in his trailer. Even if someone else was working, he'd always be there for the other actor.

Q. I can't think of two more different movies than "Oblivion" and "To The Wonder." Does it seem that way to you?

A. They are so different. When I watch the two movies, it's like I'm looking at two different people. I don't recognize myself. Even my hair color is different. In "Oblivion," my hair is dark brown. It looks almost black. In "To the Wonder," I'm almost blond. The hair styles are so different that I look like completely different nationalities.

AP

Olga Kurylenko arrives at the LA premiere of "Oblivion" at the TCL Chinese Theater on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 in Los Angeles.

Q. How did you get the role in "To The Wonder?"

A. I was in Paris and a casting director came from London to audition French actresses. My agent rang me and asked if I'd like to go by and talk to the casting director. There wasn't a script or dialogue. But it was a Terrence Malick movie so I said, "Sure."

Q. If there was no script, what was the audition like?

A. It was silent. They were filming how I moved, and my basic facial expressions. Then I flew to Austin to meet with Terry.

Q. I've never met Terrence Malick, but he remains pretty much a mystery to the world. Can you unravel some of the mystery for us?

A. I don't think so. When I flew to Austin to meet him, he wasn't in the room. There was just the producer and the cameraman. They said they were going to start without Terry. I said, "Isn't that why I came here—to meet Terry?" They told me not to worry, and they started filming. A couple of minutes later, I was in the middle of improvising a scene when the door opened and a man in a wide-brimmed hat that covered his whole face walked in and quietly sat down on the couch. He kept watching what I was doing. I thought, "This must be Terrence Malick." It was all so mysterious.

Q. Did he say anything?

A. Every once in a while, I would hear this voice say, "Move to the left" or "Look out the window." Finally, he started directing me. He was talking from inside that big hat. I couldn't see his face, but it was magical.

Q. There is not a lot of dialogue in this movie. I don't understand how he was directing you when you don't have lines to recite?

A. The funny thing is that we spoke a lot during the filming, but most of it was cut out. I had pages to memorize each day, but you don't hear the words in the movie. I think Terry has us speak as an exercise, but the words weren't important to what he is trying to say in his movie. I had to convey my thoughts with my face, my body and my being.

Q. Did a lot of scenes end up on the cutting room floor?

A. If he used everything he shot, it would be a 10-hour movie. He shoots so much. He never stops. I'll bet he shoots more in one day than a normal production does in a week. Most productions move so slowly because they're always setting up and getting ready. Terry walked in one morning and said to me, "We don't need any hair and makeup; you look good just like that." The poor make-up and hair people were so upset. They didn't know if they still had a job (laughs).

Q. You seem to have beaten the Bond-girl curse. Was there ever a time when you worried that there might not be life after Bond?

A. Although I come off as confident sometimes, one can never really be confident in this business. Nobody knows the future, but I did have excitement and enthusiasm about my career. I wanted to try many different roles. I didn't want to be just the girl who did Bond. I didn't know if I could do it, but I knew that I would try. And that's all you really can do.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

Jose Santos Pinaula

Better known as *"Jose Kusuneru"* or *"Tan Ping"*

Wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives, friends and neighbors for their kind expression of love, sympathy, personal assistance and support during this difficult time of sorrow in the passing of our beloved in the caring hands of our Creator.

Our special thanks to Fr. Nonoy, our Techa Renita Camacho and Susana Tenorio, and the Tanapan Choir (Antonio Magofña).

To all who have helped us in one way or another, your presence, compassion and generosity will always be remembered.

May God bless us all!

The Children & Families

We proudly welcome

Saipan Megaplex 7

formerly Hollywood Theaters

to the

REGAL CINEMAS

family of theatres

WATCH MOVIES, SEE REWARDS

Joining our FREE Regal Crown Club is the fastest way to earn FREE popcorn, FREE soft drinks, FREE tickets, and more!

movies • rewards • and so much more!

REGAL CROWN CLUB

Tickets and showtimes
REGmovies.com

Available on the App Store

Located near Joeten Superstore in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$6.00	Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$6.00	All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.75	All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$6.00	Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$6.00	Military with Valid I.D.
$2.50	Additional for 3D Shows

Friday, Apr. 19th through Thu Apr. 25th, 2013

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

NOW SHOWING

Oblivion

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday through Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Tom Cruise, Olga Kurylenko, Morgan Freeman
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Scary Movie 5

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday through Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Charlie Sheen, Lindsay Lohan, Ashley Tisdale
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Call

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday through Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Halle Berry, Evie Thompson, Abigail Breslin
Genre: Comedy • Rated R

Jurassic Park 3D

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday through Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D

Friday		7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	7:25	
Monday through Thursday		7:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D

Friday through Thursday 4:25

The Croods 3D

Friday		7:15	
Saturday	1:15	7:15	
Sunday	1:15	7:15	
Monday through Thursday		7:15	

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG

The Croods 2D

Friday & Saturday	4:15	9:30
Sunday through Thursday	4:15	

Olympus Has Fallen

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday through Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R

● No passes ■ No passes or Supersavers

Tickets and showtimes
REGmovies.com

Available on the App Store

This film publicity image released by Universal Pictures shows Tom Cruise in a scene from "Oblivion." AP

Fans sink into Cruise's 'Oblivion' in $38.2M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie fans slipped into "Oblivion" as the Tom Cruise sci-fi thriller led Hollywood with a $38.2 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That domestic haul comes on top of $33.7 million "Oblivion" added in overseas markets, where the film began rolling out a week earlier. "Oblivion" raised its overseas total to $112 million and its worldwide receipts to $150.2 million.

Though many people Friday were caught up in coverage of the manhunt for the suspect in the Boston Marathon explosions, it seems to have had little effect on how the film fared.

"Oblivion" took in $13.3 million on opening day Friday and $14.9 million on Saturday. That 12 percent increase is not unusual for big new releases, which typically do better business on Saturday than Friday.

The previous weekend's top film, the Warner Bros. baseball drama "42," held up well, slipping to second-place with $18 million in its second weekend. The Jackie Robinson biography starring Chadwick Boseman and Harrison Ford raised its domestic total to $54.1 million and is on its way to the $100 million mark, said Dan Fellman, Warner's head of distribution.

Overseas, Paramount's "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" got a lift with $40 million, most of it coming from a $33 million debut in China. The action sequel has topped $200 million internationally and $300 million worldwide.

"Oblivion" came in a bit higher than industry expectations. But despite its strong opening, Hollywood's 2013 revenue funk continued, with overall domestic receipts at $109 million, down 19.4 percent from the same weekend last year, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com. A year ago, two new romances—the comedy "Think Like a Man" and the drama "The Lucky One"—combined for $56 million that weekend, while the blockbuster "The Hunger Games" remained strong with nearly $15 million.

"Even Tom Cruise was unable to beat the strength of two really strong newcomers that were devoid of stars anywhere near in his league," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "That tells you the difference between last year and this year. Even when we have a good weekend like this in 2013, generally these weekends, they pale by comparison to what happened last year."

1. **"Oblivion,"** $38.2 million ($33.7 million international).
2. **"42,"** $18 million.
3. **"The Croods,"** $9.5 million ($23.4 million international).
4. **"Scary Movie 5,"** $6.3 million ($3.5 million international).
5. **"G.I. Joe: Retaliation,"** $5.8 million ($40 million international).
6. **"The Place Beyond the Pines,"** $4.7 million.
7. **"Olympus Has Fallen,"** $4.5 million ($7.8 million international).
8. **"Evil Dead,"** $4.1 million ($2.3 million international).
9. **"Jurassic Park"** in 3-D, $4 million ($420,000 international).
10. **"Oz the Great and Powerful,"** $3 million ($1.5 million international).

Domestic revenues in 2013 total $2.76 billion, down 11.2 percent from where business was at last year, when Hollywood took in record cash.

Business slumped a bit in summer 2012 with some high-profile duds, so studios have a shot at gaining ground over last year with this season's upcoming blockbusters, which include "Iron Man 3," "Star Trek Into Darkness," "The Hangover Part III" and "Man of Steel."

In narrower release, Rob Zombie's latest horror tale "The Lords of Salem" flopped with $622,000 in 355 theaters, for a dismal average of $1,752 a cinema. That compared to an average of $10,085 in 3,783 theaters for "Oblivion."

The low-budget hip-hop drama "Filly Brown" opened solidly with $1.4 million in 188 theaters, for an average of $7,250. The film stars Gina Rodriguez and the late Jenni Rivera in the story of a young talent with a shot at stardom on Los Angeles' hip-hop scene.

Clinton, 'Normal' honored at GLAAD awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC's sitcom "The New Normal," FX's thriller "American Horror Story: Asylum" and NBC's daytime drama "Days of Our Lives" took home top TV honors at the 24th annual GLAAD Media Awards held Saturday night in Los Angeles.

The GLAAD awards pay tribute to "inclusive representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and the issues that affect their lives."

The event, hosted by actress-producer-director Drew Barrymore, boasted such Hollywood heavyweights as presenters Jennifer Lawrence, Charlize Theron, Betty White and Leonardo DiCaprio.

Other winners included "Perks of Being a Wallflower," which was named outstanding film: wide release, and former President Bill Clinton was given the first advocate for change award.

On the arrivals line, longtime Clinton friend, Oscar-winner Mary Steenburgen, defended the former president's controversial honor. Under Clinton's administration came the Defense of Marriage Act, which bars federal recognition of same-sex marriage, as well as the "don't ask, don't tell" military policy.

"Actually, ("don't ask, don't tell") was a sorrow for him," Steenburgen said. "So, I think he's spent a large part of his life making up for that. But I tell you this: He's never not had his heart in the right place, in terms of the gay community."

Many who walked the press gauntlet shared personal stories. Actor Justin Bartha said a brother's coming out moved him both personally and professionally.

"It was an inspiring moment—I'm sure for him and definitely me and my whole family," Bartha noted. "So, it was at the forefront of my mind when looking at (the role of half of a gay couple in "The New Normal")."

"Kyle XY" actor Matt Dallas discussed his decision to come out publicly earlier this year. MSNBC news anchor Thomas Roberts talked about the recent marriage to his male partner of 12 years. Entertainment blogger Perez Hilton detailed the challenges of being the single gay parent of a newly adopted child.

And transgendered Chaz Bono expressed hopes for the gay lesbian bisexual transgender community's future.

"I mean, I think the goal always has to be equality in all aspects under the law," he said. "You're never going to eradicate discrimination. We see that with other minorities. Racism is still, unfortunately, alive and well. But equal protection under the law makes a huge difference. So, I think, for me, that is the goal, that is the thing to strive for." Additional 2013 GLAAD Media Awards were presented in New York on March 16. The final awards will be presented in San Francisco on May 11.

Carly Rae Jepsen big Juno winner

REGINA, Saskatchewan (AP)—Call her a winner, definitely. Carly Rae Jepsen has won the top Junos at the 42nd annual Canadian music awards ceremony, including Album of the Year, Pop Album of the Year and Single of the Year for her smash hit "Call Me Maybe."

Jepsen seemed stunned during Sunday's awards show that her gold-selling album "Kiss" beat out teen-pop sensation Justin Bieber and Celine Dion. However, Bieber did take home his fourth career Juno for Fan Choice Award.

Leonard Cohen won his second Juno of the year—the fifth of his career—for Songwriter of the Year for his album "Old Ideas."

Vancouver pop outfit Marianas Trench won Group of the Year for their record "Ever After." Classic rockers Monster Truck won Breakthrough Group of the Year.

AP

Carly Rae Jepsen receives the Juno for Single of the Year during the 2013 Juno Awards in Regina on Sunday, April 21, 2013.

Comedy Central to launch Twitter comedy festival

NEW YORK (AP)—Putting a new test to the adage that brevity is the soul of wit, Comedy Central is partnering with Twitter for a comedy festival played out in 140 characters and six-second videos.

The Viacom Inc.-owned network said Sunday that the festival with the hashtag "ComedyFest" will debut April 29. Over five days, comedians will tweet jokes and post videos with the recently launched video app Vine, which limits footage to six seconds.

The launch of the festival, which Comedy Central is expected to officially announce Monday, was first reported by The New York Times.

Kicking off the social media festival will be an event Monday in Los Angeles featuring Rob Reiner, Judd Apatow and Mel Brooks.

So far, Brooks is a Twitter holdout.

Police: 3 Doors Down member charged in fatal crash

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Bassist Robert Todd Harrell of the rock band 3 Doors Down has been charged with vehicular homicide by intoxication after an interstate crash claimed the life of another motorist in the Nashville area, police said.

The 41-year-old musician remained jailed early Sunday in connection with the fatal accident late Friday night on Interstate 40 that left 47-year-old Paul Howard Shoulders Jr. dead, the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department said.

A police statement said a preliminary investigation showed that Harrell was driving west at a high rate of speed in the Nashville suburb of Hermitage when his car clipped a pickup truck driven by Shoulders. Police said the pickup then went out of control, struck a guardrail, went down an embankment and overturned. Shoulders was ejected.

Authorities said Harrell's car hit a retaining wall and stopped about a quarter mile (400 meters) away.

Police said Harrell showed signs of impairment when he underwent field sobriety tasks, adding in their statement that "he acknowledged consuming hard cider and taking prescription Lortab" and Xanax.

Shoulders, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was pronounced dead at a Nashville hospital, authorities added.

The police statement said Harrell, of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, also was charged with bringing controlled substances into the jail. Authorities said sheriff's deputies had discovered a plastic bag concealed in his sock that contained eight Xanax pills, 24 Oxycodone pills and four Oxymorphone pills during a search at the booking room.

AP

In this April 9, 2011 file photo, 3 Doors Down' bassist Todd Harrell performs before a NASCAR auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas.

Early Sunday, a jail official contacted by The Associated Press said Harrell remained in custody in lieu of $100,000 bond. The official, who declined to be identified by name, said Harrell was not available and jail records didn't indicate whether he had an attorney.

The official said Harrell faces a court appearance Thursday morning.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of Paul Howard Shoulders, Jr. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family and friends at this difficult time," said a statement released on the 3 Doors Down website.

Kardashian-Humphries divorce settlement OK'd

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The marriage of Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries, which began with a storybook wedding, ended Friday in a grim courtroom with a judge approving a divorce settlement after a protracted legal battle between the former couple.

"I think this is a reasonable way to resolve this case," said Superior Court Judge Hank Goldberg, who did not disclose terms of the settlement.

Humphries sent his lawyer but did not appear in court. Kardashian, who is pregnant with a child by her boyfriend Kanye West, appeared in a black silk puffy sleeveless maternity dress embellished with sequins on the skirt.

"Ms. Kardashian, is this your signature?" the judge asked her as he perused a three-page settlement agreement.

"Yes," she replied. She continued to answer yes when asked if she had discussed the matter with her attorney and understood that there would be no trial.

"During your marriage did irreconcilable differences occur?" the judge asked.

"Yes," said Kardashian.

"Is there any way your marriage can be saved?" he asked.

"No," said Kardashian.

She married the National Basketball Association player in a high-profile wedding in August 2011. She filed for divorce later that year.

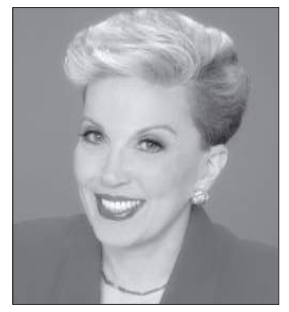
He sought an annulment claiming their marriage in an elaborate wedding ceremony was a fraud staged for her reality show, "Keeping Up With the Kardashians."

She denied the allegations and insisted on a traditional divorce. She apparently won.

"The court is going to grant dissolution of marriage," the judge said, advising that the divorce would not be final until papers are drawn up and signed.

Husband rude to in-laws should make himself scarce

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 18 years to a man I have a good relationship with. My problem is he has always been extremely rude to my parents. They aren't critical or judgmental of him, and they try hard to be friendly and accommodating, perhaps thinking it might lessen the rudeness he continually shows them.

Example: If my mom asks him how his parents are doing, without looking up from his cellphone he'll grunt and say, "They're fine"—nothing more. When we go out to dinner, he usually doesn't join in the conversation. Instead, he just sits there with a dismissive, bored look on his face.

I have told him I don't want him to come with me when I visit them. It only takes a few times before he asks if he can come again and promises to try to behave. But after a few visits, he reverts back to his old, rude ways. It has reached a point that it's affecting our marriage. Can you offer any suggestions for how this issue can be resolved?

TIRED OF IT IN TORONTO

DEAR TIRED OF IT: It would be helpful to know WHY your husband behaves this way. Does he dislike your folks? Does he have so little in common with them he doesn't know how to participate in a conversation with them? Is he this way with any other people?

Perhaps it would be better for all concerned if he saw them with you less often, say, 30 percent to 50 percent of the time. And before he does, make sure he is up to the task of being social because, as it stands, I agree his behavior is rude.

He's not a teenager with his nose buried in a cellphone; he's an adult who should know better. If he finds your parents' company less than stimulating, he should be a better actor.

DEAR ABBY: Last year my darling mother lost her battle with cancer. Aside from grief and loss, a bigger issue looms over my life. It concerns my stepdad.

Before Mom was diagnosed, my stepfather was a selfish, self-centered man. At times he was mean to her to the point that I wanted her to leave him. In fairness, once Mom was diagnosed, he stepped up to the plate and took excellent care of her until her death.

I have other issues with my stepfather. He was inappropriate with me, sharing things he should have kept to himself. It caused my mother great heartache and made me lose respect for him. I am still uncomfortable around him. Mom knew how I felt and understood.

Now that she is gone, do I have any obligation to him? He has a strained relationship with his only child. My sibling thinks I'm too hard on him, but doesn't understand the major problems our stepdad caused. I don't want to continue pretending I like him. Please help, Abby.

SEARCHING FOR GUIDANCE

DEAR SEARCHING: You are entitled to your feelings and, no, you do not have any obligation to your stepfather. If your sibling wants to see him, that's his/her choice. Explain to your sibling your reasons for feeling the way you do—and if you encounter your stepfather during family gatherings, be polite and don't linger. That isn't pretending to like the man; it is good manners.

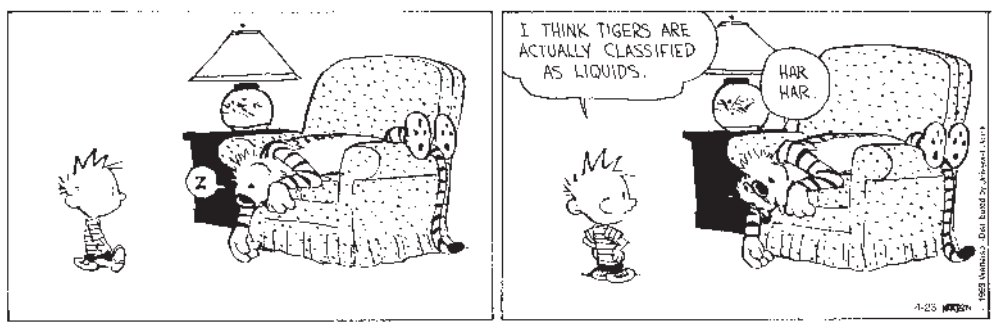
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

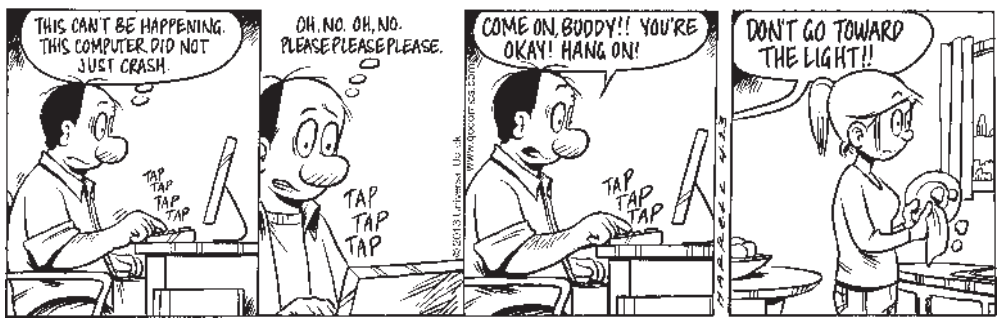


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

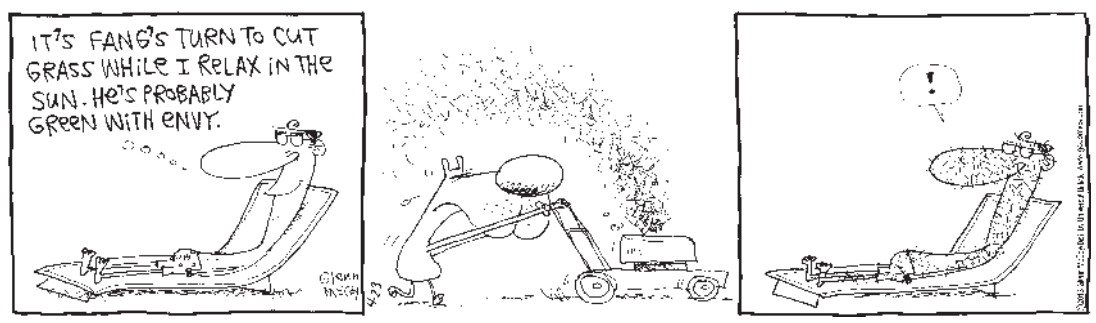
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING. THIS COMPUTER DID NOT JUST CRASH.
OH, NO. OH, NO. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE.
COME ON, BUDDY!! YOU'RE OKAY! HANG ON!
DON'T GO TOWARD THE LIGHT!!
TAP TAP TAP TAP

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

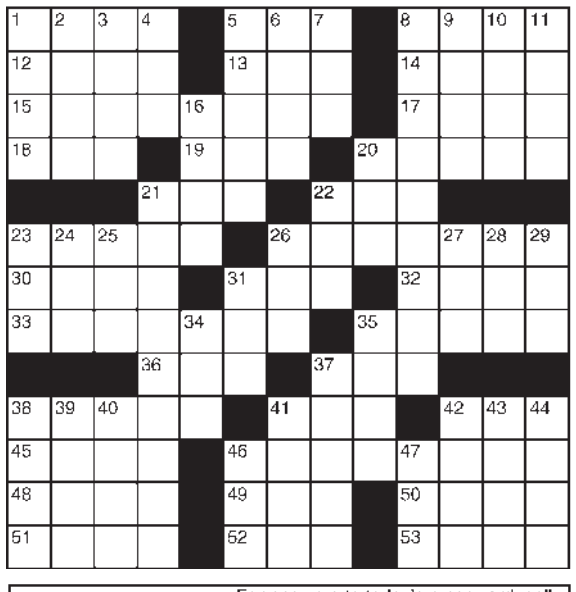
ACROSS
1 Netting
5 Personal question
8 Grouch
12 Liniment target
13 Chop
14 Firetruck need
15 Barbecue fuel
17 One side of the Urals
18 Glutton
19 Prune
20 Skill
21 Police officer
22 Has potential
23 Should, with "to"
26 Assail persistently
30 Entreaty
31 "Delish!"
32 Small wagon
33 Breastbone
35 "It's mine!"
36 Diving bird
37 Two, in Tijuana
38 Pamphlet
41 Raw rock
42 Pair of performers
45 Laugh-a-minute
46 Entrancing
48 Teen's woe
49 Ginormous
50 Eastern bigwig (Var.)
51 Equal
52 "Help!"
53 Maravich of basketball lore

DOWN
1 Jet speed measure
2 Reverberate
3 Carpet type
4 The girl
5 Shout
6 Jalopy
7 It gives a hoot
8 Monstrous whirlpool of myth
9 Parks of civil rights fame
10 "Yeah, right"
11 Defeat
16 Coagulate
20 Rotating part
21 Role
22 Oft-tattooed word
23 Chances, for short
24 Last (Abbr.)
25 "Gosh!"
26 Vagrant
27 Upper limb
28 Aries
29 Coloring agent
31 Opposite of 31-Across?
34 Eccentric
35 No stay-at-home
37 Hauls
38 Snare
39 Kind of pudding
40 Top-rated
41 Major U.S. river
42 FDR's on it
43 One
44 Shrek, for instance
46 Letterman's employer
47 Paper equivalent of a GPS?

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	E	Y	■	A	K	A	■	F	L	A	P	
R	I	M	Y	■	M	I	L	■	R	A	C	F
O	R	C	A	■	A	L	L	■	E	W	E	R
M	E	A	N	T	■	I	O	W	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	K	I	A	■	T	E	C	H	N	O
L	A	Z	E	N	B	Y	■	S	H	O	A	L
A	L	O	E	■	C	O	D	■	P	U	R	L
M	I	N	D	S	■	M	A	J	O	R	C	A
A	T	E	O	U	T	■	M	O	O	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	N	U	S	■	E	D	I	C	T
I	C	E	D	■	B	O	P	■	L	O	L	A
D	I	L	L	■	B	Y	E	■	E	I	A	L
S	A	K	E	■	Y	A	P	■	■	A	W	E

Yesterday's answer 4-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dev Patel, 23; Jaime King, 34; Jonathan Ruckman, 44; George Lopez, 52

Happy Birthday: Research and prepare before you make a decision that will alter your life professionally, financially or physically. A power struggle can be expected, requiring you to take measures that are well thought-out and unique. Make your mind up to put everything you've got into accomplishing your goals, and you will come out on top. Your numbers are 4, 10, 16, 21, 33, 35, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Avoid emotional encounters with peers. If someone is pressuring you, back away. Concentrate on your work and taking care of your responsibilities. An unexpected opportunity must be considered, but refrain from making an impulsive move without getting all the facts first. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Taking action will make a difference. Pressure will be put on you if you keep changing your mind. Mull over what you want to achieve before you begin. Past experience will help you make a better choice now. Put love first. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Plan every move you make. Giving out too much information will lead to interference. Negotiate shrewdly and invest conservatively. Find an alternative if someone blocks you. Think fast and adapt to change and you will reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take on responsibilities if it will position you to make the reforms you feel are necessary. Target your goal and be persistent. Your dedication and passion to achieve will impress someone with something to offer. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Do whatever it takes to get the job done. Complaints will be made if you don't honor a promise or responsibility. Your ability to think fast and operate like a leader will not go unnoticed. Someone is likely to be jealous of you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Knowledge, sharing and visiting people who offer insight into something you want to do or pursue should be the focal point of your day. Networking, socializing or concentrating on a love interest will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Make a decision. Take care of an investment and put money into your living space or a service you want to offer. Don't let your emotions stand in the way. Make a decision and follow through. Avoid unpredictable people who may be offering empty promises. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Offer something different, unique and challenging to the people you believe in or care about the most. Your ability to diversify and create will enable you to make changes that will allow you to have more fun and expand your interests. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make the domestic alterations that will give you the freedom to enjoy life and be surrounded by people who share your interests. Networking or participating in a worthy cause will lead to stellar connections. Partnership opportunities are present. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make changes to your lifestyle that fit your current situation and you will flourish. A new job or changing the way you do things will result in stability, less stress and opportunities that bring you greater freedom. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Money, health and legal concerns should be your prime concern. Expand your personal goals and you will satisfy your needs. Do your own thinking and make decisions that work for you. Avoid anyone trying to control you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): How you earn your living and handle your money must be looked at carefully. A conservative outlook will help you build a solid plan for the future that will enable you to achieve some of the dreams you have yet to achieve. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, outspoken and willful. You embrace challenges.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4				3	6		8
			2	6	5			
						2	3	9
7		9	1				4	
				4				
	8				6	5		2
5	9	4						
			5	8	7			
8		2	3				6	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	1	7	9	5	3	6	4
6	7	4	2	8	3	5	1	9
9	3	5	6	4	1	7	8	2
3	4	9	8	5	2	6	7	1
1	6	8	3	7	9	2	4	5
7	5	2	4	1	6	8	9	3
2	9	3	1	6	7	4	5	8
5	8	7	9	3	4	1	2	6
4	1	6	5	2	8	9	3	7

Difficulty Level ★ 4/22

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SKELETONS IN YOUR CLOSET **Solution: 6 letters**

T	P	K	L	A	T	E	G	R	O	F	B	A	G	S
N	H	D	R	A	M	A	T	I	C	O	H	U	S	H
E	R	G	O	S	T	S	Y	S	O	T	T	S	A	P
C	A	V	O	I	D	L	Y	K	U	I	P	O	R	S
E	S	P	E	E	I	R	Y	R	I	I	P	I	E	Y
D	E	S	S	M	O	R	T	M	H	I	V	C	Y	S
E	E	O	A	T	O	Y	A	S	N	A	R	T	(H)	S
T	L	F	S	M	D	G	N	I	T	E	R	A	(I)	E
C	C	I	E	O	I	O	O	E	T	I	M	E	(D)	M
I	H	M	B	N	I	N	C	I	D	E	N	C	(E)	Y
R	A	O	E	T	D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R	R	S
T	N	M	A	S	K	E	D	P	T	L	I	U	G	T
S	G	L	A	E	C	N	O	C	E	E	B	M	I	E
E	E	M	B	A	R	R	A	S	S	E	D	O	F	R
R	E	P	U	T	A	T	I	O	N	F	K	R	T	Y

© 2013 Universal Uclick www.wonderwordcom Join us on Facebook 4/23

Avoid, Bags, Book, Bury, Change, Closed, Conceal, Decent, Defend, Dirty, Discover, Dramatic, Embarrassed, Family, Feel, Forget, Gift, Guilt, Hide, History, Hush, Imagine, Incidence, Keep, Masked, Memory, Messy, Mystery, Nobody, Opinion, Past, Phrase, Private, Relationships, Reputation, Restricted, Risk, Rumor, Secret, Shame, Talk, Ties, Time, Truth

Yesterday's Answer: David

THE WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 can be ordered by sending a check or money order for $17.95 each (plus $5.00 postage and handling) to: PO Box 1113, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-1113. Please specify Canvas Version and $9.95 Collector's Version. Allow 10 weeks for delivery. $1.00 per book for each additional address. Limited quantities available. Void where prohibited. Offer valid in the U.S. only. Satisfaction guaranteed. Offer expires 6/30/13. Contact us at: http://www.wonderwordcom (Questions, Comments, Suggestions, Problems) or by mail at: Uclick, 1130 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106 (Orders Only). Toll free, 1-800-591-4881 (Orders Only).

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1-Violin Instructor. 3 years experience. Myong Run Corp. dba Doremi Music School. Tel: 233-7777.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT

4 Bedroom, 2 Storey Bldg
with 2 bathroom & 1 small office space.
Located in Papago

Please call Ellen Delos Santos at 285-2847
Serious Callers Only

For SALE or RENT

3 STOREY BUILDING
1st Floor – BIG OFFICE SPACE

2ND FLOOR – APT UNITS:
Two (2 bedrooms, 1bathroom)
One (4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms)

3RD FLOOR – APT UNIT:
One (1 bedroom, 1 bathroom)

Call Maria at 989-7654

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Accounting Associate: $5.55-$6.00/hour, College graduate with at least five years of work related experience. Knowledge with AccountEdge Premium Accounting Software is preferred. Vimar Offshore, Inc. dba Manic Inn. Email resume with job references to manicinn@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) F & B Manager: $5.55-$6.00/hour, Bachelor's Degree with at least five years of work related experience. Must have good working knowledge in Japanese and Russian. Vimar Offshore, Inc. dba Manic Inn. Email resume with job references to manicinn@pticom.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Manager

Min. 5 yrs experience. Extensive knowledge in Accounting, Office Management & Insurance Industry. Ability to adjust in different working environments & deal with various clients of different ethnicity. Salary commensurate with work experience. Send police clearance together with cover letter & resume to friendshipinformation @gmail.com or Friendship Ent., Inc., P.O. Box 501193 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) General Maintenance: $5.55/hour, College or High School graduate with at least three years of work related experience. Willing to work day or night. Vimar Offshore, Inc. dba Manic Inn. Email resume with job references to manicinn@pticom.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) House worker
Salary $5.05 per hour. 3 years experience

Interested applicant must contact and submit resume to
RPCF, INC P.O. Box 504549 Saipan MP 96950
Tel No.: 234-9127
Email: brian@pticom.com

MARIANAS BAPTISH CHURCH AND ACADEMY
P.O. Box 500904 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel/Fax No. (670) 234-6508

JOB VACANY ANNOUNCEMENT

JAPANESE TEACHER (Part Time)
Qualifications
- At least 5 years teaching experience in Japanese Language
- Proficient in both oral and written Japanese language
- Willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school
- Adhere to all school policies and procedures
- Be able to teach AP Japanese and related courses

BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER – Church & Academy
Qualifications
- High School graduate
- At least 5 years experience in plumbing, masonry, painting, electrical and ground maintenance
- Willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school & in complete agreement with the doctrine & policy of Marianas Baptist Church
- Adhere to all school policies and procedures

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Academy
Qualifications
- Holder of Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy or its equivalent
- At least 5 years experience in record keeping, financial management and bookkeeping
- Proficient in Microsoft computer operation and maintenance
- With good understanding of local and federal tax and educational laws
- With excellent interpersonal communication skills to handle school related tasks
- Willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school
- Adhere to all school policies and procedures

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – Church
Qualifications
- With Christian education course & understand the ministry of the Sunday school.
- At least 2 years experience in record keeping & correspondence of the church.
- Must have administrative ability & be in complete agreement with the doctrine & policy of Marianas Baptist Church

Interested applicants must submit resume to :
Marianas Baptist Church and Academy
Dandan, Saipan MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement

Delivery Man

Interested applicant must submit resume to
Kesy Marketing
in REM Center, Gualo Rai
Tel. 234-1336

Saipan City Taxi Association, Inc.
Job Vacancy Annoucement

14 – Taxi Drivers. Salary Rate: $5.55/hr. At least 2 years of taxi driving experience in the CNMI. Must be a holder of a valid CNMI Driver's License, CNMI Taxi Driver's License, and a CNMI Taxi Bureau Identification Card. Current Police Clearance, Traffic Clearance and Traffic History. Willing to work flexible hours.

Interested applicants may send resume to
PO Box 7765 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.
Please send your resume no later than May 02, 2013.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First
Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS
Saipan Tribune
Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Opinion
Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Pastimes
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201

WHATZIT Solution: Jack-of-all-trades

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

JOINER
PLASTERER
ELECTRICIAN
LOCKSMITH

WHATZIT? © 2013 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Harden, Rockets blasted by Thunder, 120-91

OKLAHOMACITY (AP)—James Harden is going to need much more help from his Houston Rockets teammates if he hopes to knock off the team that traded him away before the season started.

Kevin Durant scored 24 points, Russell Westbrook made a run at a triple-double in three quarters and the Oklahoma City Thunder routed Harden and the Rockets 120-91 on Sunday night in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series.

"Believe it or not, I think this was good for us," Harden said. "Losing like this was definitely good for us. Now we know how to play."

Harden scored 20 but Houston was held 15 points below its regular-season average while shooting 36 percent. The Rockets, who set a franchise record for 3-pointers during the regular season, finished 8 for 36 (22 percent) from behind the arc.

Harden didn't get much help from the rest of his fellow starters, who combined for a total of three career playoff starts, all by center Omer Asik. None of the other starters scored in double figures and the unit went 17 for 50 from the field, with Harden making just six of his 19 attempts.

"We really don't have an excuse anymore," said Jeremy Lin, one of three Houston starters making their first career playoff appearance. "We've gotten it out and played terrible all the way across the board—offensively, defensively. That one's over with."

The Rockets made the playoffs for the first time in four years after acquiring Harden in a surprising trade at the end of training camp. He went on to become an All-Star and finish fifth in the league in scoring.

"James, on this team, has to shoulder a ton of responsibilities for us and he's been great all year long," coach Kevin McHale said. "He's had an all-pro type of year. ... He'll play better, just like everybody.

"We ask him to do an awful lot for us—handle the ball, score the ball, pass the ball, make plays. I think that he had it going there for a little bit, but it wasn't James. It was us in general as a team. We never really caught a flow at all tonight."

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Oklahoma City.

Harden said he tried to block out what kind of reaction he might get from the crowd that once cheered for him and wore fake beards to mimic his trademark look. He was just focused on trying to win.

Hours before going head-to-head with Harden, Durant said that "we're not looking at him as a friend right now." But even right before tipoff, the situation didn't seem natural.

"It felt a little awkward just looking across there during the national anthem and seeing him with another team, but we've got to get past that. We're competing against his team, and he wants to win so bad," Durant said afterward. "We know him personally, so we know how hard he competes and he knows how hard we compete."

After letting Houston wipe away an 11-point deficit in the first half, the Thunder regained control with a 14-1 surge just before halftime and kept pouring it on.

Just after a fan nailed a half-court shot to win $20,000 in the break after the third quarter, Durant drove for a two-handed slam while getting fouled and Oklahoma City was soon up by 30.

Harden said he thought his team was "shell shocked" with so many players making their playoff debut, and they played like it.

"We didn't have a rhythm as a team. I felt like it was basically one on five every time," Harden said.

McHale said he thought players were jogging, instead of going at their usual fast pace, and then failed to string together passes on offense.

"We just want to try to make them uncomfortable every time down," Durant said.

The Thunder were already up by 23 when Larry Hill connected on the half-court shot and went bounding toward Oklahoma City's huddle in celebration, getting congratulated by Thabo Sefolosha before the team's bison mascot pulled him back away.

Durant's dunk sparked a string of seven straight points for Oklahoma City, and Harden never even came off the bench in the fourth quarter. Coach Scott Brooks called timeout and pulled Durant a few moments later, and reserves finished out the game for the Thunder.

Russell Westbrook ended up with 19 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds. Serge Ibaka chipped in 17 points and Kevin Martin, Harden's replacement in the sixth man role, had nine of his 16 points in the fourth quarter with the game already in hand.

It was an impressive playoff opener for top-seeded Oklahoma City, which made it to the NBA Finals last season before losing to Miami in five games. The Thunder led by as much as 35 before Houston's reserves cut into the lead in garbage time.

Oklahoma City scored the first six points of the game and opened a 13-2 lead as the Rockets failed to make a basket for the first 6 minutes of the game and started out just 1 for 13 from the field. Houston eventually settled in and charged back with a 13-2 push spanning the break between the first two quarters, with Chandler Parsons providing the final five points on a two-handed putback jam and a 3-pointer.

Patrick Beverley pulled the Rockets even at 38 with a transition 3-pointer from the right wing, but the Rockets couldn't pull ahead before Oklahoma City's next surge.

Sefolosha had a two-handed slam on a fast break and also assisted on Kendrick Perkins' two-handed dunk during the burst, which extended Oklahoma City's lead to 60-45 before Harden's driving layup in the final second before halftime.

All but the first basket in the Thunder's run came after Asik joined Parsons on the bench with three fouls apiece.

The Rockets never recovered.

Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) talks with Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) during a time out in the second quarter of Game 1 of their first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Oklahoma City, Sunday, April 21, 2013.

AP

Warriors lose All-Star David Lee to hip injury

DENVER (AP)—The Golden State Warriors got a double dose of bad news Sunday.

They learned All-Star forward David Lee had torn his right hip flexor, as feared, ending his season.

So, they'll have to continue their playoff series against Denver without the NBA's leader in double-doubles.

Making that task all the more difficult will be the return of the Nuggets' top rebounder and energizer, Kenneth Faried, from an injured ankle.

Faried sat out the opener Saturday, when the Nuggets edged Golden State 97-95 despite getting outrebounded 55-45.

"Whoa, I didn't know that," Faried said Sunday after declaring he'd be back in action Tuesday night in Game 2. "That can't be happening. It's playoff basketball and that's one of the biggest keys. ... Every possession counts and they're that much more valuable in the playoffs. You need to secure rebounds and lock the ball down and make sure we can start our break and have that fun and flair that the Nuggets play."

The Nuggets haven't been winning as handily as they did before Faried went down with a sprained left ankle on April 14. He wanted to play Saturday but by keeping him on the bench, he'll get another 72 hours of rest and rehab.

"He's our hustle guy, he's our rebounder," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "Last night I think we missed him. You've got two teams that like to run and when you take your best runner off the court it's going to affect the flow of the game. And his offensive rebounding is probably the reason why we're No. 1 in offensive rebounding, point blank. He's the guy that always goes and is always there."

The matchup of Lee and Faried was billed as a headliner in this first-round series pitting two high-octane teams that like to get up and down the floor.

"It would have been exciting," Faried said.

Now, it'll be Carl Landry's task to deal with the man known as the "Manimal," something Warriors guard Jarrett Jack said he's looking forward to.

"I think he'll be able to meet force for force and give us a chance down there," Jack said.

Lee said he didn't have to wait for the MRI on Sunday to know he'd torn the right hip flexor, an injury that's seen much more often on the football field than the hardwood.

He said he knew it right when he hit the floor after banging into JaVale McGee on a drive in the fourth quarter. He gathered himself enough to shoot two free throws but struggled to run back downcourt and needed help getting to the bench.

Pacers 107, Hawks 90

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 23 points and recorded his first playoff triple-double, leading Indiana past Atlanta, for a 1-0 lead in the Eastern Conference series.

George made just three of 13 shots but was 17-for-18 from the free-throw line. He had 11 rebounds and 12 assists.

"I know what the team will expect from me now," George said. "But, again, I like the pressure."

George Hill added 18 points despite playing with a left groin injury. It's the first time since 2006 that the Pacers have opened a playoff series with a win.

The best-of-seven series resumes Wednesday at Indy.

On Sunday, the Central Division champs played more like the team that was contending for the No. 2 seed rather than the one stumbling to five losses in its previous seven games.

Atlanta was led by Jeff Teague with 21 points and Josh Smith with 15.

The Pacers weren't sure what to expect after four starters—George, Hill, Roy Hibbert and David West—took a six-day break from game action.

All that rest appeared to help them get back in sync. They took advantage on the glass with a 48-32 edge, forced Atlanta to play a half-court game instead of allowing the Hawks to run, and they were nearly flawless at the free-throw line. Indiana made its first 24 free throws, a streak that ended when Lance Stephenson missed the second of two shots in the final minute of the third quarter. The Pacers finished 30-for-34 from the line. Atlanta went 7-for-14.

Spurs 91, Lakers 79

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker scored 18 points each for the host Spurs in Game 1 of the Western Conference first-round series. Tim Duncan added 17 points and 10 rebounds, Matt Bonner had 10 points and Kawhi Leonard had eight points and 11 rebounds for San Antonio. Dwight Howard had 20 points and 15 rebounds, Steve Nash scored 16 points, and Pau Gasol added 16 points and 16 rebounds for Los Angeles. Despite the double-doubles from Howard and Gasol, the Lakers failed to take full advantage of their inside presence.

Miami 110, Milwaukee 87

In Miami, LeBron James scored 27 points on 9-for-11 shooting, and Ray Allen scored 20 off the bench for the host Heat, which never trailed in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference first-round series. Dwyane Wade scored 16 points, Chris Bosh added 15 and Chris Andersen finished with 10 on 4-for-4 shooting for Miami, which held the Bucks to 42 percent shooting. Brandon Jennings scored 26 points, and Monta Ellis added 22 for Milwaukee. Game 2 is Tuesday in Miami.

Padres lose to Zito, Giants 5-0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Barry Zito and Chad Gaudin combined on a six-hitter and Buster Posey homered as the San Francisco Giants beat the San Diego Padres 5-0 on Sunday to complete a three-game sweep.

Zito (3-1) bounced back from the worst start of big league career to beat the Padres for the first time in nearly two years. He allowed five hits in seven innings, struck out four, walked one and did not give up run for the third time in four starts.

Posey's first home run of the season was just the 11th this year for the power-starved Giants. Before the two-out, two-run drive off Eric Stults (2-2) in the fifth, Hunter Pence, Pablo Sandoval and Brandon Crawford had accounted for all of San Francisco's homers.

AP

San Francisco Giants' Barry Zito works against the San Diego Padres in the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday, April 21, 2013, in San Francisco.

Mets 2, Nationals 0

In New York, John Buck hit his seventh home run of the season and Dillon Gee earned his first win as the Mets beat the Nationals to take two of three games from the NL East champions.

Coming off a pair of poor starts, Gee (1-3) pitched three-hit ball for 5 2-3 innings and New York finally got a strong effort from its struggling bullpen, which entered with the highest ERA in the majors at 5.47. Buck hit a drive into the second deck at Citi Field and Mike Baxter added a sacrifice fly as New York ran up Jordan Zimmermann's pitch count in dealing the right-hander his first loss of the year.

Zimmermann (3-1) threw 96 pitches in five innings. He allowed two hits and three walks.

Reds 10, Marlins 6

In Cincinnati, Brandon Phillips drove in the go-ahead run for the second straight day, while Joey Votto homered and had three hits as the Reds beat the Marlins for their sixth win in seven games.

Todd Frazier hit a three-run double in an eight-run seventh inning for the Reds, who won three of four from the Marlins and improved to a major league-best 10-3 at home.

With the score 2-2, Shin-Soo Choo drew Cincinnati's fifth walk off Alex Sanabia (2-2), who also hit Chin with a pair of pitches. Singles by Xavier Paul and Votto loaded the bases, and Phillips had an RBI single against Jon Rauch, and Paul scored when right fielder Giancarlo Stanton bobbled the ball for an error.

Logan Ondrusek (1-0) struck out the side in the seventh to win in relief of Homer Bailey, who allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings with eight strikeouts and three walks.

Pirates 4, Braves 2

In Pittsburgh, slumping Clint Barmes had a pair of run-scoring singles for his first two RBIs of the season, including a tie-breaking hit in the sixth inning that led the Pirates over Atlanta for their third straight win over the Braves.

Barmes began the day with a .093 batting average and was in a 0-for-14 slide.

Kris Medlen (1-2) lost for first time in 29 regular-season start in which he was given a lead. He allowed three runs and six hits in six innings with six strikeouts and one walk.

Justin Wilson (1-0) got his first major league win by giving up one hit in 1 2-3 scoreless innings.

Brewers 4, Cubs 2

In Milwaukee, Ryan Braun hit a three-run homer in the fifth then was ejected three innings later as the Brewers won their seventh straight.

The Brewers are 18-2 over the past 20 meetings with the Cubs at Miller Park. Milwaukee improved to 9-8 after losing eight of 10 to start the year.

Wily Peralta (1-1) pitched 6 2-3 innings for Milwaukee, giving up two runs and five hits.

Scott Feldman (0-3) gave up four runs on three hits in five innings and made an error before Braun's homer.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 4

In Denver, Didi Gregorius hit his second major league home run and singled to start a two-run rally in the ninth inning that led the Diamondbacks over Colorado and stopped the Rockies' eight-game winning streak.

Gregorius, who homered Thursday at Yankee Stadium on the first pitch he saw with the Diamondbacks, started a comeback from a 3-0 deficit when he homered against Juan Nicasio leading off the fifth.

Colorado led 4-3 when Gregorius singled leading off the ninth against Wilton Lopez (0-1). A.J. Pollock doubled over third baseman Jonathan Herrera, and pinch-hitter Alfredo Marte grounded out to third, driving in the tying run. Gerardo Parra followed with a sacrifice fly to deep center.

Heath Bell (2-0) pitched a scoreless eighth.

Phillies 7, Cardinals 3

In Philadelphia, Erik Kratz hit a three-run home run to break the game open in the eighth inning and lead the Phillies to a win over the Cardinals.

Mike Adams (1-1) tossed a scoreless eighth inning to help the Phillies split the four-game series. The Phillies snapped a 3-3 tie with a four-run eighth that put the game away.

Michael Young extended his hitting streak to 12 games with an infield single off reliever Mitchell Boggs (0-2). Dom Brown singled to put runners on the corners with one out. Ben Revere made it 4-3 on a go-ahead single up the middle.

Kratz then hit the first pitch deep into the left-field seats for a three-run homer and a 7-3 lead.

Angels 4, Tigers

In Anaheim, California, Mark Trumbo homered leading off the bottom of the 13th inning and Albert Pujols doubled home two runs, lifting the Los Angeles Angels to a victory over Detroit for their second straight series sweep of the Tigers.

Detroit lefty Phil Coke (0-2) intentionally walked Pujols with two outs and the bases empty in the 12th before striking out Josh Hamilton on three pitches. But Trumbo drove a 3-1 pitch into the top part of the double-decker bullpen in left field for his second homer of the season.

Jerome Williams (1-0) got the victory with three innings of two-hit relief.

Royals 4, Red Sox 2, first game
Royals 5, Red Sox 4, second game, 10 innings

In Boston, Ervin Santana pitched seven strong innings as the Royals ended Boston's seven-game winning streak with a win over the Red Sox in the opener of a day-night doubleheader.

The nightcap was scheduled after Friday night's game was postponed because of the manhunt for a suspect in the Boston Marathon bombings.

Santana (2-1) allowed two runs on six hits with no walks and seven strikeouts. It was the third straight start in which he gave up two runs or less.

The Royals scored three runs in the fourth with Salvador Perez's two-run single breaking a 2-2 tie against Ryan Dempster (0-2).

In the second game, Lorenzo Cain drew a walk with two outs and the bases loaded in the 10th inning to give the Royals a sweep of a day-night doubleheader over the Red Sox.

Alex Gordon had three hits in the second game, including a single with one out in the 10th. Alcides Escobar walked and, after Billy Butler struck out, Eric Hosmer reached on an infield single—his fourth hit of the day.

Andrew Miller (0-1) walked Cain on four pitches to bring home Gordon for his third run of the game.

Rangers 11, Mariners 3

In Arlington, Texas, Nelson Cruz hit his fifth career grand slam, one of four home runs by the Texas Rangers in a victory that completed a three-game sweep over the Mariners.

Cruz went way deep, an estimated 431 feet to left-center field, to cap a five-run fifth that chased Aaron Harang (0-2).

Leonys Martin, Mitch Moreland and Adrian Beltre also homered for the Rangers, whose 11 runs were a season high. Martin had a triple leading off the fifth before scoring on Ian Kinsler's bloop single to right.

Justin Grimm (1-0) struck out nine and walked one over six innings in his fourth major-league start, the second this season. The right-hander allowed two runs, including an unearned run in the first that snapped the Mariners' 19-inning scoreless streak after they were shut out the first two games of the series.

Indians 5, Astros 4

In Houston, Mark Reynolds' seventh homer of the season put Cleveland on top in the seventh inning and the Indians held on for a win over the Astros.

The home run by Reynolds, who also homered in Cleveland's 19-6 win Saturday, was one of four solo shots for the Indians, who took two of three in the series.

Carlos Santana, Drew Stubbs and Yan Gomes also connected for the Indians.

The game was tied at 4 in the seventh inning before the two-out full-count homer to left-center by Reynolds off Hector Ambriz (0-1).

Cody Allen (1-0) got the final out of the sixth and Chris Perez pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save in three opportunities.

Twins 5, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Josh Willingham atoned for an earlier misplay with a tiebreaking three-run double in Minnesota's four-run seventh inning, leading the Twins to a victory over the slumping White Sox.

Aaron Hicks singled in a run and Justin Morneau had a bases-loaded walk as Minnesota swept a pair of weekend games against Chicago to stretch its winning streak to four.

Scott Diamond (1-1) pitched six effective innings, keeping the Twins in the game while they struggled to score against Gavin Floyd. Diamond allowed two runs, one earned, and four hits in his first start since he made his season debut in a loss to the New York Mets on April 13.

Chicago led 2-1 before Hicks drove in Trevor Plouffe with a single to right against Matt Lindstrom (1-1) in the seventh. Minnesota went on to load the bases when Donnie Veal issued a two-out walk to Joe Mauer, and Willingham drove the first pitch from Jesse Crain deep to center to give the Twins a 5-2 lead.

Rays 8, Athletics 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Roberto Hernandez pitched six effective innings for his first win since he was known as Fausto Carmona, helping the Tampa Bay Rays complete a three-game sweep of the Athletics.

Hernandez (1-3) allowed one run, three hits, three walks and had seven strikeouts in his first win since Sept. 20, 2011, while with Cleveland.

Oakland starter Tommy Milone (3-1) had his season-opening three-game winning streak end. The left-hander gave up six runs and eight hits over 6 2-3 innings.

Jake McGee and Brandon Gomes completed the three-hitter. One day after having a DJ play music in the clubhouse to help relax his team, Rays manager Joe Maddon had a magician doing card tricks Sunday.

Blue Jays 8, Yankees 4

In Toronto, J.P. Arencibia hit a two-run homer and Melky Cabrera had three hits as the Blue Jays rallied for a victory over the Yankees after Josh Johnson walked in the tying and go-ahead runs.

Brett Cecil (1-0) worked 1 1-3 innings for the win as the Blue Jays capped a seven-game homestand on a winning note.

Esmil Rogers worked 1 1-3 innings and Darren Oliver pitched the ninth for Toronto.

Chris Stewart hit a solo homer for the Yankees, who had won nine of their previous 11.

Adam Lind walked and Arencibia doubled, bringing Boone Logan (0-1) gave up a two-run double to Brett Lawrie and an RBI single to Cabrera in a four-run sixth that gave Toronto the lead.

Dodgers 7, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Mark Ellis drove in three runs as the Dodgers beat erratic Jake Arrieta and the Orioles to end a six-game losing streak.

Matt Kemp singled in the go-ahead run during a four-run fifth inning, and the Dodgers received a solid performance from their bullpen in the finale of the three-game interleague series.

Making his fourth start of the season, Arrieta (1-1) allowed only two singles in four-plus innings. But he walked five—three of whom scored—and hit a batter, who also came home.

Adam Jones homered for the Orioles and Chris Davis had three hits.

Before the game, the Dodgers put scheduled starter Chad Billingsley on the 15-day disabled list with right elbow soreness and recalled Stephen Fife from Triple-A Albuquerque to take his place on the mound.

Fife, who started five games with Los Angeles last season, recovered from a rocky start to allow four runs and seven hits in 4 2-3 innings.

J.P. Howell (1-0) gave up a single before getting the final out in the fifth. Matt Guerrier and Paco Rodriguez each pitched a hitless inning, Kenley Jansen allowed a single in the eighth and Brandon League got three outs for his fifth save.

McDowell wins in playoff at RBC Heritage

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—For all the big moments in Graeme McDowell's career, his resume was short on PGA Tour victories.

McDowell relished what he called his first authentic tour win, defeating fellow U.S. Open champ Webb Simpson in a playoff at the RBC Heritage on Sunday.

McDowell's been at the center of some of golf's biggest moments, from his rousing triumph at Pebble Beach in 2010 to capturing the winning point for Europe in that year's Ryder Cup matches. He has six European PGA victories, too, but he hadn't triumphed in the weekly grind of the world's top tour.

"This game kicks you more often than it gives you a pat on the back," McDowell said. "It's hard to win."

Not on this day for McDowell, who pushed forward on wind-blown Harbour Golf Links when his rivals were moving backward, unnerved by the 20 to 30 mph winds that rattled the course.

He rallied from four strokes down when the day began to take a one-shot lead into the 72nd hole. Then after he made his only bogey of the round to fall into tie with Simpson, two-putted from about 15 feet to make a par on the extra hole that Simpson couldn't match.

"I guess the weather was what the doctor ordered. I needed that to get close to the leaders," said McDowell, who earned $1,044,000 for the victory.

McDowell, from Northern Ireland, had a 69, one of only three scores in the 60s among the 70 who teed off Sunday.

Simpson, reigning U.S. Open winner, shot 71. He had a chance to win in regulation, but his 22-footer for birdie went 3 feet past and set up the additional hole. "I came in with not too much confidence, but I just stayed true to the process of what we've been working on," Simpson said.

Luke Donald shot a 69 to tie for third with Kevin Streelman, who had a 72. Jerry Kelly rounded out the top five after his even-par 71.

Charley Hoffman, the 54-hole leader, ballooned to a 77 and fell into a tie for sixth with Russell Henley (69) and Chris Stroud (70).

McDowell patted Simpson on the back after the playoff miss and smiled widely as the boats in Calibogue Sound tooted their horns and whistles. Neither McDowell nor Simpson made the cut a week ago at the Masters, yet bounced back in a big way at Harbour Town.

McDowell acknowledged he was frustrated and disappointed after missing the weekend at Augusta National by a shot. If he had made the cut, McDowell wondered if he'd have had the motivation to break through at Harbour Town. "It's funny the way things happen," he said. "I wouldn't swap this for a top 10 last week."

The course showed its teeth, winds arcing flagsticks and blowing debris on every hole. Donald backed off his putt on No. 7 when a large leaf tumbled through his line. Crews watered several greens between groups simply to keep balls holding instead of skipping off the wind-swept sod.

Blowers were heard throughout the day, trying to push off leaves, twigs and other tree parts falling everywhere on the course.

The National Weather Service issued a wind advisory for the area, warning of gusts up to 45 mph.

"Extremely difficult," Donald said of conditions. "Strongest wind I've played in all year."

Few managed the wind better than McDowell, who lurked behind most of the round until striking on the back nine. He made a 28-foot birdie putt on No. 11 to move into a three-way tie for first with Simpson and Hoffman.

McDowell broke the tie on the 16th hole, landing his approach within 8 feet and making the birdie putt. He saved par from the back of the green on the 17th hole, but couldn't do it a second time on the closing, lighthouse hole at No. 18 for his first bogey in 32 holes to fall back into a tie with Simpson.

Simpson's chase appeared over when he made three bogeys in a six-hole stretch to fall two shots behind. He steadied himself with a birdie on No. 12 and parred his way to the finish to reach the playoff.

Donald, who's got two seconds and a third in his past four appearances at Harbour Town, got an early charge going before Hoffman and Simpson hit the course with four birides on his first six holes to draw within two of the lead.

Donald, ranked No. 6 in the world, couldn't keep the surge going, though. He had birdie chances on the final three holes of the front nine, but came up empty. Bogeys on the 13th and 15th holes end Donald's run. Still, it was the fourth top-five finish in the last five trips to the RBC Heritage for Donald.

AP

Graeme McDowell, of Northern Ireland, poses with the trophy after winning the RBC Heritage golf tournament in Hilton Head Island, S.C., Sunday, April 21, 2013.

Jets trade Darrelle Revis to Buccaneers

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Revis Island is relocating to Tampa Bay.

The Buccaneers made a bold move to fix the NFL's worst pass defense Sunday, acquiring star cornerback Darrelle Revis from the New York Jets in exchange for the 13th overall pick in this year's draft and another selection next year.

"We're thrilled. It's rare that you get a chance to add a player of this caliber to your football team. That's what motivated us," general manager Mark Dominik said, adding he would withhold further comment until a Monday news conference at the team's training facility.

The Bucs announced the deal Sunday, saying Revis agreed to a new six-year contract. Revis' agents Neil Schwartz and Jon Feinsod confirmed the deal is worth $96 million, with no guaranteed money, but makes him one of the highest-paid defensive players in the NFL. It includes $1.5 million annually in both roster and workout bonuses.

The Jets also receive a conditional fourth-round pick in next year's draft that will become a third-rounder if Revis, who is coming off a torn ligament in his left knee, is on the Buccaneers' roster on the third day of the 2014 league year.

"I been sitting around for the last hour trying to figure out what to say to the Jet Nation & I came up with this," Revis wrote on Twitter. "The six years I played for the New York Jets were unbelievable. I put my body on the line everyday & did everything could to help the team win. I experienced a lot & & learned a lot. The memories I had in New York I will keep dearly to my heart.

"I want to thank all the jets fans for making me feel welcome."

The trade was completed about two hours after Revis arrived in Tampa by private jet to take a physical for the Bucs, who wanted to check out his surgically repaired knee.

Tampa Bay coach Greg Schiano drove his car onto the tarmac to meet the plane, greeted Revis and whisked the cornerback away to One Buccaneer Place. Soon after, the front page of the Buccaneers' official website posted a big picture of Revis in what appears to be a Tampa Bay jersey with the words: "Treasure Island. Darrelle Revis (CB). It's a Bucs Life."

Tampa Bay opens the season at—that's right—the Jets.

Trade talk had been swirling for months involving Revis, with the Bucs thought all along to be the most serious suitor. In addition to having a leaky secondary, Tampa Bay was more than $32 million under the salary cap before landing a player generally regarded as the best cornerback in football.

New Jets general manager John Idzik said during a conference call that New York wasn't proactively shopping Revis, but Tampa Bay made "sincere and sustained" interest. Idzik insisted Revis' desire was to remain a member of the Jets and that the team shared that feeling, but "we ultimately came to the conclusion," Idzik said, "that this was the best thing to do for the Jets at this time."

Idzik added that there were several factors that went into the final decision to trade Revis, who coach Rex Ryan reiterated Sunday is "the best cornerback in football." The main barriers included the Jets and Revis' representatives being far apart on a long-term extension, the time factor with the NFL draft coming up and the "degree of uncertainty" regarding the cornerback's health.

"Fitting a deal of historical proportions into our short-term and long-term plans is very difficult," Idzik said.

Revis was New York's first-round pick in 2007 after then-GM Mike Tannenbaum traded up to No. 14 to draft the former University of Pittsburgh star. Revis quickly established a reputation on the field as a shutdown cornerback, routinely holding wide receivers to quiet games and causing quarterbacks to shy away from his side of the field. He was considered by many to be so dominant at his position that he earned the nickname "Revis Island" for leaving opposing wide receivers stranded.

Ryan's Jets currently have the ninth overall pick in the draft that starts Thursday, and now the 13th pick, so Idzik will be busy early in the first round.

The trade leaves Antonio Cromartie as the Jets' top cornerback, a role he flourished in last season with Revis sidelined by a knee injury. And 2010 first-rounder Kyle Wilson mostly likely would be stepping in as the other starter.

"We're a football team that has a No. 1 corner," said Ryan, who said he and Idzik have been "joined at the hip" and he was involved in the decision-making process. "We're fortunate to have Antonio Cromartie."

The Jets could also target a cornerback—perhaps Alabama's Dee Milliner or Florida State's Xavier Rhodes—in the first round.

For the Bucs, adding Revis improves a secondary that already includes cornerback Eric Wright and safeties Mark Barron and recently signed Dashon Goldson, an All-Pro last season in San Francisco. Tampa Bay finished last in pass defense last season, coming within 38 yards of allowing the most yardage through the air in league history.

The 27-year-old Revis was entering the last season of his four-year contract signed in 2010, but was looking for a big payday that would make him one of the highest-paid defensive players in the league. A clause in that deal prevented the Jets from using the franchise or transition tag on him next year, so if he likely would have become a free agent in 2014.

As the Jets weighed whether to try to sign him to a contract extension, lose him to free agency next offseason or deal him for high draft picks, Revis was the subject of rampant trade rumors since last season ended.

"It became quite evident to us that there was a substantial difference between Darrelle's view of his value and ours," Idzik said. "We felt there would have to be a significant change on either side in order to create a path toward reaching an agreeable deal for either side."

Complicating things was the fact Revis is coming off a serious injury. Revis tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee last September against Miami, and underwent surgery the next month.

"It definitely muddies the water a little bit," Idzik said.

Revis has been rehabbing since, and has indicated in interviews he expects to be ready for the start of the regular season.

Against his former team.

With Revis' contract status still in limbo, many predicted the two sides would have a repeat of the tough negotiations that marked previous discussions and led to two holdouts and nearly a third last summer. Instead, Idzik made a move with an eye on the franchise's future and not going empty-handed by letting Revis walk as a free agent next offseason.

"We wanted to come up with a decision that was the best for the New York Jets," owner Woody Johnson said. "And that's the decision we arrived at. And I think it was the correct one."

BORJA

From Page 28

points on the three judges' scorecards after the first round. The leaner and quicker Toves connected on some punches and kicks on the face of Borja, who just started to shave off the weight he gained from a yearlong hiatus and could not get his rhythm early. Then in the second round, Toves continued to use his fists to score more points on Borja and blood started to drip from the latter's nose. Realizing he was on the disadvantage in the stand-up fight against the much taller Toves, Borja turned to his grappling skills to save himself from more punishment. He then caught Toves and brought him down to the canvas and began throwing solid punches to the defenseless Guam bet, forcing Camacho to break the fight and hand the win to Borja (4-1).

The Borja-Toves bout was the fourth MMA fight of the night with two of the first three ending in the first round.

Countershot Guam's Jared "Smiley Face" Santos also scored a win via referee stoppage in the 1:59 mark of the first round against Team Legit's Leon Mendiola. Santos managed to gain top position on Mendiola and finished his foe with a barrage of strikes.

Independent fighter and MMA debutant Mat Fisher earned a victory, too in the first round, winning via tap-out against Team Tuf Nuff's Garry "Dissa" Ray. Fisher employed a guillotine choke on Ray, who threw in the towel at the 2:21 mark of the opening round of the third MMA bout of the night.

In the MMA opener, Trench Tech's SeongHo Chung won his comeback fight, prevailing via a decision against Team El Peligro's Jake Ilo.

While the Chung-Ilo duel went the distance, the Vince Camp-Franklin Santos bout was done after only 39 seconds in the first round. Camp of Spike 22 used a stand-up guillotine choke on Santos and the latter tapped out.

Next up was the 155-lb bout between Tinian's JoeRay Manglona and Zalaka's Danny Cruz with the former enduring a ground-and-pound match in the first two rounds before the latter gained the win at the 34-second mark of the third round off a rear-naked choke.

In another 155-lb fight, Eric "Superman" Villanueva bowed not to kryptonite but to the "The Monkey"—Trench Tech's Danny Santos, who got the win via guillotine choke just six seconds before the end of the first round.

The eighth MMA match of the night also ended in the first round with Ryan "The Predator" Toves of Lights Out Guam beating Zeng Zung's Rino "The Animat" Reyes. Reyes tapped out at 1:49 after Toves locked him with a triangle choke.

Meanwhile, three kickboxing bouts took place before the MMA action. Team Ultimate's Alexander "Sherkhan" Allen won via decision over Trench Tech's Ko Palacios; Kevin "The Bull" Camacho of Guam Muay Thai got a referee stoppage win at the 1:31 of the second round against Team Pwang's Pete "The Project K" Keju; and Countershot Guam's Sonny Chargualaf scored a first round knockout victory over Zeng Zung's Renz "The Intense" Benghit.

CNMI

From Page 28

Hinson, and Cody Leon also suited up against the South Koreans.

Meanwhile, the CNMI plays its second game in the qualifier today, as it faces Chinese-Taipei at 4:30pm (6:30pm Saipan time). The Commonwealth bets will then take a break on Wednesday before facing Guam on Thursday and host China on Friday.

The CNMI youth players are coached by Wai Wo "Jacky" Lee. Also on the Commonwealth delegation are goalkeeper coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Johann Noetzel, assistant coach Jersh Angeles, and team officials Derek Chambers and Gary Ramsey.

Lee's wards are participating in the Group G qualifiers and after two days of competition, Korea leads the field with its 2-0-0 record. Korea also shut out Guam (0-0-2) last Sunday, 8-0. China is in second place with its 1-0-0 card, following a 5-0 victory over Chinese-Taipei. Chinese-Taipei won its debut over Guam last Saturday, 5-1.

The five teams in Group G are battling for slots in the AFC U-14 Championship 2014 Finals. Seven other groups divided into four zones are having their respective qualifiers and only the Top 2 teams from each zone will march into the finals.

Shirley's FC extends streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's FC kept its immaculate record in the spring season of the Women's M-League after routing Tan Holdings FC, 7-0, in a make-up game last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Three Shirley's FC players scored two goals apiece to give the league-leading team a perfect 6-0-0 win-draw-loss record. Tan Holdings fell to a 1-1-5 card. The win gave Shirley's FC a sweep against Tan Holdings this season, as the former also blanked the latter in their first round duel, 5-0.

Alexa Vergara put Shirley's in the board with her first goal in the 13th minute, while Jeraldine Castillo also scored in the first half, giving their team a 2-0 lead in the 20th minute. Nine minutes later, the tally went up to 3-0, as Diane Pablo also made it to the scoreboard.

Vergara again started things out for Shirley's with a goal eight minutes into the second half, while Castillo duplicated the feat just three minutes later. Maica Aniana was the fourth Shirley's FC strike to score, doing it in the 72nd minute, while Pablo earned her second goal two minutes later.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's FC's Angie Ito hits the ball during their first meeting against Tan Holdings FC in the Women's M-League late last month at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Paire FC 7, Matansa 0

Paire also cruised to victory last week, whipping the winless Matansa (0-0-7).

Paire improved to a 4-0-2 slate, thanks to the four goals of Kayleen Salle. Nicole LeBlanc, Mikaela Duenas, and Jacklyn Echon also helped Paire's casue, as they contributed one goal apiece.

LeBlanc got her first goal of the season 10 minutes into the first frame, while Duenas made it a 2-0 Paire lead in the 12th minute. Salle then started her string of goals in the remaining minutes of the opening half, nailing her first in the 16th, the second in the 25th, and the third and fourth in a span of one minute (38th and 39th) to give Paire a commanding 6-0 halftime advantage.

With the game already in the bag for Paire, as Matansa continued to search for the elusive first goal, the former slowed down a bit in the second half and did not score until Echon hit her target in the 78th minute.

MP United 1, IFC 0

In the third game last week, MP United outclassed Independents FC.

Kyla Ito drilled the lone goal in the match, scoring in the 27th minute. MP United now has a 4-1-2 card, while IFC dropped to a 4-0-3 record.

Meanwhile, games in the second round of the double-round competition resumed last Saturday at the Oleai pitch and results will be reported later this week.

XCLUSIVE

From Page 28

Xclusive took control of the match after scoring five runs in the third and fourth inning, turning a tied match (1-1) into a 6-4 lead. Secharmidal gave up six hits and two earned runs in the first four innings before redeeming himself in the last two innings.

The win allowed Xclusive to avenge its 6-18 loss to the Enforcers in the first round.

Lions 14, Fielders 4

The Lions denied the Fielders entry to the win column after a 10-run mercy victory in five innings.

The Lions improved to a 3-5 record for fifth place in the team standings and kept their semis hopes alive, while the Fielders are out of the running with a dismal 0-9 slate.

Catcher Kobe Tomokane led the Lions' third victory, going 3-for-3 at the plate and making three RBIs and two runs.

Tomokane hit a two-run single at the top of the first inning and the Lions got three more runs off the Fielders errors for a 5-1 advantage. The Lions never looked back, as it gained seven more runs off the Fielders' miscues and two earned runs, while the latter scored only one from the second to fourth inning before getting two more late ones in the last.

The Fielders needed to make three runs at the bottom of the fifth to extend the match and moved within one run after Frank Igisair scored off an error and Alvin Pua's single brought Austin Roberto home with only one out. However, Pua was later beaten to second, while Anthony Agulto was left stranded on second after closer Ben Maratita struck out Jesus Attao.

Comets 10, Falcons 5

The Comets moved up to a 6-3 mark, after bringing down the Talaabwogh Falcons (2-6).

Relief pitcher Frankie Nakamura almost had a no-hitter, allowing only one hit in 4.1 innings pitched and giving up only two runs (one earned) to power the Comets to the victory after only six and a half innings. He had three strike outs and two walks and also scored one run and a one-run triple.

Nakamura came in for Logan Martin at the bottom of the third inning and before the former took over the mound, the Comets had already given up three earned runs. Nakamura then started his pitching duties with a strikeout to end the inning and with him at the dish, the best the Falcons got only one hit on Frankie Lifoifoi's single.

TAGA SPORTS
is now online!
The CNMI's premier sports magazine is now available on issuu.com/tagasports.
Double your exposure when you place an ad with TAGA Sports. Readers will not just see you on the magazine, they will see you online. This gives advertisers the chance to reach out to more readers by having an online version of their ads.
Create brand awareness that drives purchase intent!
Advertise with TAGA Sports! Call 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747; fax 235-3740; or email sales@saipantribune.com.
Shuffle
Upgrade

Harden, Rockets blasted by Thunder, 120-91

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Padres lose to Zito, Giants 5-0

PAGE 25

Borja wins comeback fight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian's Craig "The Earthquake" Borja had a successful return inside the octagon cage after beating Guam's Kyle Toves in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 14: Mayhem last Friday night at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Borja, who missed mixed martial arts action for more than a year after a decision win over Jake Ilo in Trench Warz 15: Supremacy on Dec. 16, 2011, scored a victory via referee stoppage at the 2:29 mark of the second round of his 145-lb bout against Toves of Lights Out. Referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho stepped in to stop the fight after the Zeng Zung bet unleashed a flurry of punches while on top of Toves.

Before Camacho pulled the plug on Toves, the Guam fighter was ahead on

See **BORJA** on **Page 27**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho checks on Guam's Kyle Toves, right, and Tinian's Craig Borja, while blood drips from the latter after getting a kick from his foe during the second round of their bout in Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 14: Mayhem last Friday night the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

CNMI strikers lose debut in Beijing

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI U14 National Team dropped its opening game in the AFC U14 Championship 2014 Qualifiers in China, last Saturday.

The Commonwealth youth strikers faced South Korea on Field 1 of the National Football Training Base in Beijing and fell to their favored foes, 0-13. CNMI goalie Christopher Dela Rosa was busy all game, trying to hold his ground against the aggressive Koreans, who got three goals apiece from their two key players.

Forward Lee Ingyu scored the first goal for South Korea and went on to add two more—in the 15th and 41st minutes—for a hat-trick. Also nailing three goals for South Korea was another forward Lee Haek Seon, who found the back of the net in the 47th, 49th, and 51st. Kang Hyun Woo was the third South Korean forward to gain multiple goals against the CNMI, as he scored in the 19th and 39th. Defender Kim Tae Hwan also got two goals (24th and 38th), while South Korea's two other goals came from another defender Seo JinSu (28th) and forward Lee Sang Jae (52nd).

The CNMI used 16 players in its debut in the qualifier with midfielders Euly James Ermitanio, David Mafnas, Joshua Abragan, and Louie Calayag, defenders Won Kwan Kim, Alex Park, and Mareko Tekopua, and forwards Sun Joon Tenorio, Edwin Kim, and Emmanuel Aniana joining Aninzo on the starting lineup. Steven Martin, Joshua De Leon, Cole Chambers, Alan

See **CNMI** on **Page 27**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members and officials of the CNMI U14 National Team pose for a group photo during a send-off ceremony last week at the Kanoa Resort.

Xclusive upsets Enforcers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Xclusive stunned second-running JPO Enforcers, 9-4, during a Junior Division game in the 2103 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win was only the fourth in eight games for Xclusive, keeping the team in fourth place in the seven-squad field. The Enforcers dropped to a 7-2 slate and remain in second place behind the Red Sox (8-1).

Virgil Secharmidal and Christian Lizama shut down the Enforcers in the last three innings to prevail in the third and final game last Saturday. Lizama came in for Secharmidal at the bottom of the fifth inning and gave up only one hit and got two strikeouts, while the latter returned to the mound midway in the sixth and left three runners stranded after striking out Ethan Babauta for the third out.

The pint-sized pitcher had another strikeout to start the last inning and after giving up a base hit to Kier Agda and walking Matthew Hamilton, Secharmidal closed out the match with two straight strikeouts.

Secharmidal also went 3-for-5 at the plate, scored two runs, and had one double and two singles. Jay Kalen was only 2-for-5 at bat for Xclusive, but gained two RBIs and notched two runs. Anson Cepeda and Ray Borja added one RBI apiece on a 2-for-5 and 2-for-4 performance at the plate, respectively.

See **XCLUSIVE** on **Page 27**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Xclusive' Virgil Secharmidal pitches at the bottom of the sixth inning of their game against the JPO Enforcers in the Junior League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.